

5 more test positive for exposure to anthrax

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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BOCA RATON, Florida—Five more newspaper employees in Florida tested positive for exposure to anthrax, but none showed symptoms of infection.

In Nevada, a letter sent to a Microsoft office also tested positive for the bacteria, further causing anxiety over a biological assault in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Islamic terrorists threatened to unleash a storm of new attacks on jetliners and skyscrapers, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation said it had information that terrorists were

5 MORE / A20



THE PRESENCE of British soldiers, who are engaged in defense exercises in Oman's desert, is believed to be part of preparations for military strikes on Afghanistan.

Taliban brings journalists to scenes of devastation

KABUL—US-led forces on Sunday began bombing Afghanistan for a second week, but there was still no sign that the Taliban militia was handing over suspected terrorist Osama bin Laden amid reports of mounting civilian casualties.

International journalists reported scenes of devastation when they visited a village in eastern Afghanistan that the Taliban claimed was hit by a US bomb last week.

The journalists encountered angry residents who said around 200 villagers had been killed.

But even as US jets and missiles conducted round-the-clock raids over the country's main cities, the Taliban supreme leader shrugged off any suggestion he would hand over Bin Laden—the Saudi-born dissident blamed for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington.

"We do not have any extradition treaty with America under which we can hand over the suspected people," the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) quoted Mullah Mohammad Omar as saying late Saturday.

"Our sin is that we have enforced Islamic laws in the country. We have given shelter to an innocent and shelterless Muslim who is not even allowed to spend an hour in any other country."

US President George W. Bush earlier said the United States would reconsider its military actions if the Taliban surrendered Bin Laden who has been living in Afghanistan under the militia's protection since 1996.

The Afghan capital of Kabul and four other cities were attacked repeatedly from Saturday

TALIBAN / A20

Shabu worth P1B seized in Quezon

Municipal mayor, Chinese, 2 others arrested

BY DELFIN T. MALLARI JR.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—It was an emergency, all right. But not of the medical kind.

A government ambulance from the island-town of Panukulan was stopped on the national highway in Real, Quezon, on Saturday afternoon and yielded—no, not a sick patient—but 498 kilos of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu.

The haul, already packaged in ready-to-sell one-kilo packs, has an estimated total street price of P1 billion.

A Starex van with a commemorative license plate marked "Mayor," which followed the ambulance, was also stopped by members of the Philippine National Police narcotics group and the National Bureau of Investigation's narcotics division.

The team arrested Panukulan Mayor Ronnie T. Mitra and three others.

Supt. Roberto Rosales, Quezon police chief, identified the other suspects as ambulance passengers Willie Yao, a Chinese national, and Ruel R. Dequialla; and driver Javier A. Morilla.

They were immediately brought to the PNP headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City, along with the seized shabu.

"It's close to 500 kilos, high grade," Director General Leandro Mendoza, PNP chief, said. "We've never confiscated anything this big before."



RANDY HORMILLOSA

SHABU / A21 A MILITARY helicopter lands in Camp Crame with its load of 498 kilos of shabu seized in Quezon province.

GMA foreign policy control leaves DFA in shambles

BY AMANDO DORONILA

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has seized full control of Philippine foreign policy in the wake of her robust support for the US-led war on globally networked terrorism, marginalizing the Department of Foreign Affairs and leaving it in disarray.

As the Philippines is increasingly being sucked into the international coalition's military action now centered on the strikes on Afghanistan, the DFA should be her main arm in generating diplomatic support for the coalition's war on terrorism, especially that of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

But the DFA is crippled and incapable of meeting the challenge of backing the President's policy on terrorism because it has a leadership vacuum. It has been degraded by the President herself into a dumping ground for inexperienced political outsiders recruited to man key posts in the department and important ambassadorial positions.

The DFA career service is demoralized after

GMA / A20

Chinoys ask GMA: Act on spate of kidnappings

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

"WE CAN wait no longer."

Fear for their lives and impatience with the slow resolution of kidnap-for-ransom cases have pushed the Chinese-Filipino community to urge President Macapagal-Arroyo to do

something about this "kind of terrorism that preys on the economic backbone of our country."

In a statement to be handed over to the President at a luncheon meeting in Malacañang today, 120 members of the Chinese-Filipino community ex-

pressed their condemnation of the recent spate of kidnappings.

Meeting with the President are Benjamin Chua's Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Dante Go's Chinese-Filipino Business Club, James Dy's Chinese General Cham-

ber of Manila, Teresita Ang-See's Kaisa and 20 members of the Chinese-Filipino media.

They lamented that kidnappings had occurred almost everyday the past two weeks.

At least 84 kidnappings of Chinese-Filipinos have been reported

this year alone, according to Rizal Yuyitung, publisher of Chinese Commercial News, a Chinese-language daily.

"The situation is critical and this is a question of survival of the Chinese community that can affect the

CHINOYS / A20

Troops rescue 4 more hostages in Basilan

BY JULIE ALIPALA-INOT
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ISABELA CITY—"Ten more to go."

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, chief of the military's Southern Command, was counting the number of hostages still being held by the Abu Sayyaf following the rescue of four captives past midnight yesterday.

Cimatu said the four were rescued during an encounter between government troops and Abu Sayyaf bandits in Barangay Lumbang here at 1 a.m.

They were identified as Reynaldo Ariston, 26; Ruben Baldesamos, 13; Rodrigo Solon, 37, all plantation workers of Golden Harvest in Barangay Tairan in Lantawan town; and Joel Guillo, 26, a clerk of the Don Jose Maria Torres Memorial Hospital in Lamitan.

Ariston, Baldesamos and Solon were taken when Abu Sayyaf bandits raided the plantation on June 11, while Guillo was one of those taken after the Lamitan raid on June 2.



ARMY Col. Hermogenes Esperon, 103rd Infantry Brigade commander, escorts three of the rescued hostages, Joel Guillo (right), Ruben Baldesamos (left) and Rodrigo Solon.

TROOPS / A21

AP



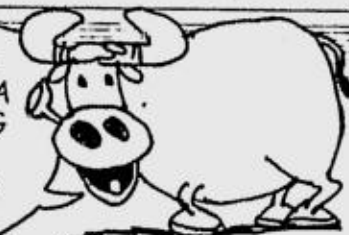
Another world-class act for Lea

BY LEAH SALTERIO

LOS ANGELES—Lea Salonga proved anew she's a world-class talent when she earned a standing ovation for her performance in the opening night of her new musical, "The Flower

ANOTHER / A20

Second FRONT PAGE

TULOY-
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Sweet recovery seen for RP sugar



NO longer a "sunset industry"

AFP/BOBBY COLOMA

BACOLOD CITY—Buoyed by new tariff concessions and increased production through new technology, the Philippines wants to regain its lost status as a key sugar producer, industry officials say.

In the central island of Negros, the country's sugar bowl, planters are excited by an output turnaround in the current crop year and news that high tariffs protecting the industry will be maintained.

The upbeat mood was in stark contrast to the gloom in the mid-1980's when sugar prices collapsed and forced thousands of families in Negros into poverty.

The Confederation of Sugar Producers Association of the Philippines said production should hit 1.9 million tons this year, with farmers expected to break a two-year output slump.

Last year and in 1999, raw sugar production levels were around 1.6 million tons.

"Our immediate priority is being self-sufficient and able to meet our US quota which has declined to about 150,000 tons," Bernardo Trebol, the confederation's president, said in an interview in Bacolod City.

The Philippines was a leading sugar exporter until the mid-1980s when prices collapsed. At the height of the sugar depression, one survey showed 73 percent of children under 14 years of age in Negros suffering from malnutrition.

"The average sugar farmer in Negros is now making money—not much but at least they are making—and I think is happier than many other commodity farmers," Trebol said.

"Once we were labeled a sunset industry but we are beginning to pick up now," said Herman Santos, the sugar confederation's manager for Negros-Panay, a key producing area.

In the industry's early days, most of the sugar was exported to the United States under a quota system but Washington had reduced quotas dramatically to cater to its own production needs.

The Philippines now imports sugar from Brazil, Australia and Thailand to make up for the small deficit in domestic consumption totaling more than 2 million tons. But Trebol said with potential to expand sugar cane cultivation in Mindanao where a Muslim separatist campaign is easing, Philippine production could increase in coming years.

Officials said that the jump in production this year was largely due to high-yielding varieties of sugar cane and higher prices. Millers were also able to recover more sugar from the canes through better technology.

"Prices of sugar have been pretty depressed over the last four years and it is only now that it has more or less stabilized at the level of P850 to P900 per 50-kilogram bag," said Bobby Jereza, vice chair of the APP-Negros Cooperative for sugar farmers.

"We will be able to make a little profit out of it now," he said.

Referring to the high-yielding varieties, Jereza said: "Hopefully with the same amount of money we put in, we will be able to achieve a bigger yield."

As production increased, the Philippines has lobbied other Southeast Asian governments to maintain its tariffs against sugar imports, largely from Thailand.

Southeast Asia is preparing to set up a free trade area by 2003.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas said the other Association of Southeast Asian states had agreed in principle

to allow the Philippines to delay lifting its sugar tariff.

"It will allow the Philippines to maintain high tariffs on sugar for several more years, before phasing it down to a maximum of 5 percent in 2010," he said.

Under the Asean Free Trade Area (AFTA), the Philippines was scheduled to reduce its 50 to 65 percent tariff on sugar imports to zero to 5 percent by 2003.

Some five million people depend on the sugar industry for a living in the Philippines, which is also a top coconut, abaca and rice producer among other commodities.

"We are now banking on the core industries of the old economy, like the sugar industry, to sustain us during this period of global slowdown, said Leo Echua, the head of the country's only integrated sugar refinery in Negros.

AFP

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Chinoy businessman first witness vs Erap in plunder case

AN ETHNIC Chinese businessman who is believed to be directly and personally involved in the alleged corrupt practices of jailed ex-president Joseph Estrada will be the first witness at the resumption of the plunder trial of the disgraced leader at the Sandiganbayan on Wednesday.

Willie Ng-Ocier, vice chair of the Belle Corp., will testify on how Estrada allegedly collected almost P190 million in commissions from the sale of Belle Corp. shares of stock to the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System.

Lawyer Jose de Jesus, spokesperson

for the Office of the Ombudsman, said in a press statement that the testimony of Ocier, "a principal player in the anomalous transaction... will definitely provide a lot of substance to the case."

De Jesus said the prosecutors would be opening the plunder trial with the Belle Corp. case as it was one of the strongest charges against Estrada.

Ocier will testify to the issuance of a check to another Estrada businessman crony, Jaime Dichaves, who in turn issued a personal check to Estrada that ended up in the Jose Velarde account, an alleged Estrada secret account, De Jesus said.

The prosecutors allege that the insider trading involved in the sale of overpriced Belle Corp. stocks to the SSS and the GSIS resulted in the weakening of and loss of confidence in the stock market from which it has yet to recover.

Aside from the negative effect on the stock market, the irregular transaction also resulted in financial losses to the two state-managed pension funds that could run into millions of pesos, the prosecutors said.

More details on this aspect of the trial are expected to surface when former SSS chair Carlos Arellano takes

the stand after Ocier.

Arellano is expected to explain why the SSS ended up buying the shares of stock of a troubled real estate company and now is holding on to shares whose value has been greatly diminished.

De Jesus said Estrada's lawyers have indicated they may not be attending the Oct. 17 hearing.

"But with or without the counsel of Mr. Estrada, we are confident that we will be able to finish with the direct testimony of Ocier," he said.

De Jesus said the defense lawyers

would use their absence at the Oct. 17 hearing as grounds to again question Estrada's lack of counsel.

"It's again a dilatory tactic as far as

we are concerned. For the record, the defense has already filed 112 motions that have resulted in the delay in the hearings," said De Jesus.

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Unliquidated cash advances total P34B

By DONNA S. CUETO

THE UNLIQUIDATED cash advances of all government agencies reached a whopping P34.16 billion as of Dec. 31 last year, reflecting on the national government's poor handling of its finances, the latest report of the Commission on Audit said.

The amount is even bigger than the government's combined budget for agriculture (P21.5 billion) and housing (P5.9 billion) last year, which amounted to only P27.4 billion.

The money which could have fed and housed millions of poor Filipinos went instead to government officials.

All of that money has remained unaccounted for, according to the consolidated annual financial report for the national government released recently by the COA.

COA Chair Guillermo Carague submitted the report to the President on July 30.

Aside from cash advances, the COA said the accumulated overdraft of the national government stood at P1.11 trillion, P1.01 trillion of which, or 91.8 percent, involved debt service alone.

COA blamed the budget department for its "continued practice of not issuing the budgetary allotments for public debt service expenditure" resulting in the "increasing balance of overdraft accounts."

It said that the budget department should already issue the allotment release order (ARO) to cover the accumulated overdraft, particularly the P1.01 trillion incurred for the servicing of public debt in previous years, to stop the accumulation of the overdraft.

It was, however, the unliquidated cash advances of P34.16 billion that topped the COA's 10 common "audit observations" of the national government's inadequate handling of its finances.

The COA also noted the government's poor control and management of fixed assets and inventories recorded in their books at P834.97 billion and P18.23 billion, respectively; payables-unliquidated obligations totaling P15.65 billion which had been pending for two years or more without valid claims; uncollected or dormant accounts receivable of government agencies amounting to P796.5 million recorded in the books for several years; and unsettled audit suspensions and disallowances last year that reached P20.28 billion and P4.99 billion, respectively.

"Cash advances amounting to P34.16 billion remain outstanding in the books of national government agencies (NGAs) as of Dec. 31, 2000 in violation of existing laws, rules and regulations on the granting, utilization and liquidation of cash advances," the COA report said.

This consisted of funds granted to the agencies' disbursing officers, officers of other agencies and fund transfers, including those given to non-government organizations (NGOs) and people's organizations (POs), it said.

As of Dec. 31, 2000, cash advances of all NGAs amounted to P34.16 billion, consisting of P10.57 billion granted to disbursing officers, P5.33 billion granted to officers of other agencies, P15.63 billion inter-agency fund transfers, and P2.64 billion entrusted to NGOs and POs.

Foreign debt payments up by P9.2B in 2002

GLOBAL recession may force government to shell out P25.3 million more a day or P9.240 billion a year to service its foreign debts next year, Rep. Ace Barbers said in a statement yesterday.

The government is scheduled to pay \$1.28 billion on the interest and \$1.8 billion on the principal of its foreign loans next year.

But the amount in Philippine pesos to cover such payments was based on a P50 to a dollar exchange rate, Barbers explained.

Based on that exchange rate, which is contained in the 2002 budget documents Malacañang had submitted to Congress, the government originally planned to set aside P90 billion for principal payments and P64 billion in interest payments—or a total P154 billion—for its foreign obligations next year.

However, the multi-agency Development and Budget Coordinating Council revised the exchange rate to P51.50 to P52.50 to a dollar, given the bad global economic

outlook for next year. Barbers said if the exchange rate deteriorates to P53 to a dollar as many analysts are predicting would happen next year, then the government's foreign debt service payments will rise by about P9.24 billion, or to P163.24 billion.

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RP, Moro rebs to resume talks in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia—The Philippine government and Muslim separatist guerrillas will resume peace talks in Malaysia this week in an ongoing effort to end decades of fighting, a rebel negotiator said Sunday.

Murad Eibrahim, vice chair of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, said that a technical committee would meet for two days starting Monday to set an agenda for the talks. The top-level negotiators were expected to begin formal discussions Wednesday.

He said they were expected to debate alleged violations threatening a ceasefire signed in Malaysia two months ago that filled in the details of a broader peace pact forged earlier this year in Libya.

The pact left just one Muslim group—the extremist Abu Sayyaf, known for its kidnappings—still fighting for independence from the largely Roman Catholic country. The larger Moro National Liberation Front made peace in 1996 for a degree of autonomy in the southern Philippines.

The details agreed to in Malaysia covered security and immunity issues and mechanics on normalizing relations in war-ravaged Muslim regions, where three decades of rebellion have killed more than 120,000 people and displaced tens of thousands.

But despite the ceasefire, sporadic fighting has broken out in the Islamic front's impoverished provinces. Both the government and rebels blame each other for starting them.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration has refused to hold peace talks with the smaller Abu Sayyaf, which is holding a dozen hostages, including Americans, and has been linked to Osama bin Laden, who has been named by the US government as the leading suspect in the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States. **AP**

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RP seeks extradition treaty with China

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will seek an extradition treaty with China when she visits there to attend the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit next week, Malacañang said yesterday.

Ms Macapagal wants to forge the treaty "in the wake of involvement of Chinese nationals in kidnapping cases in the Philippines," the palace said in a statement.

Police last week arrested seven Chinese men who allegedly kidnapped a daughter of a prominent ethnic Filipino-Chinese businessman for P10 million ransom.

Arroyo said Chinese nationals in the Philippines are "not just victims but also perpetrators of kidnappings, so it really works both ways."

"I would like to extradite these seven Chinese who were caught doing the kidnapping," Arroyo was quoted by the statement as telling Chinese journalists in an interview.

"I would want them to be extradited to China so that China can be the one to give them (justice), dispense justice there," she said.

She said she would also push for intensified cooperation on transnational crime through sharing of intelligence materials as well as immigration reports.

Arroyo is to attend the Apec leaders' summit on Oct. 20 and 21 in Shanghai, but will also be making an official visit to Hong Kong and a state visit to Beijing "towards the end of the month," the palace said. **AFP**

Gov't to continue spending spree-DBM

THE GOVERNMENT will continue with its spending spree next year amid lingering economic uncertainty following the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the United States, the budget department said yesterday.

Contracting public spending could slow down economic activity and result in a "negative effect" on the country, the department said in a statement.

"At a time when most in the private sector are still thinking of their options in the light of prevailing uncertainties, we have to lead the way especially now that compared to its Southeast Asian neighbors, the Philippines is posting comparatively higher economic growth," Budget Secretary Emilio Boncodin said.

She said the government was "determined" to keep a budget deficit target of P130 billion for 2002, from a target of P145 billion this year.

"The government maintains its policy of prudent spending and fiscal discipline but this is not the appropriate time for us to cut down on public spending because the economy needs our intervention, particularly in the agriculture sector," Boncodin said.

She said there had been a "slight downsizing" in the government's growth target for next year to 4 to 4.5 percent from the original 4.3 to 4.8 percent as an "offset of the prevailing uncertainty in the world economy."

Opposition senators, meanwhile, said they would not support a P60-billion "borrowing spree" by the Macapagal-Arroyo administration.

The Senate minority would be more inclined to support "poor-friendly measures" such as revenue collection improvement and reduction of non-essential public expenditures, Sen. Teresa Aquino Oreta said in San Fernando, Pangasinan, last Friday.

Oreta, a member of the Senate committees on economic affairs, finance and accounts, said the plan to obtain P30 billion through bond floats and another P30 billion in short-term loans were like "mortgaging the country's future."

Fiscal officials are infusing more money to the national coffers by floating P10 billion worth of zero-coupon bonds next week, re-issuing P10 billion worth of retail Treasury bonds this month and issuing P10 billion worth of dollar-linked bonds in November.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is securing foreign loans equivalent to P30 billion that would mature in four years to beef up gross international reserves beyond the \$14-billion level, said Oreta.

"The last thing we need now is a borrowing spree," she said.

She urged Malacañang to instead draw up an economic stimulus program that would "fend off the brunt of the global economic meltdown on ordinary Filipinos and local business."

Oreta also urged the Macapagal-Arroyo administration to convince the World Trade Organization to defer the implementation of tariff liberalization to help the Philippine economy recover faster amid the global slowdown. AFP with a report from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

War vs terrorism tops Apec agenda

THE 21-NATION Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum will commit to fight terrorism and take steps to cut the flow of funds to terrorist groups, according to a draft statement of the group's upcoming summit.

The Oct. 20-21 meeting in Shanghai, to be attended by US President George W. Bush, will be the first top-level international gathering since hijacked commercial planes hit the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

"Leaders unequivocally condemn in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks against the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, as a profound threat to the peace, prosperity and security of all people, of all faiths, of every nation," said the draft statement on terrorism, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press.

The terrorist strikes "are also a direct attack on Apec's vision of free, open and prosperous economies," said the statement, which was circulated among Apec senior diplomats for approval or comment.

In the draft, Apec leaders commit to forge international cooperation to battle terrorism and urge the United Nations to play a major role. They also call for the early signing of an international convention that would restrict the financing of terrorism.

"Leaders commit to strive to prevent and suppress terrorist acts in the future, and express their strong support for all efforts aimed at strengthening international anti-terrorist regime," the document

said. There was no specific mention of the US-led bombings in Afghanistan or Osama bin Laden, the Saudi exile suspected of masterminding the US attacks.

Apec leaders would pledge to cooperate to ensure

terrorism does not disrupt economies and markets.

Member countries would be urged to assure the safety and security of airports and planes and contribute to a discussion of aviation safety in an Apec transport ministerial meeting next year. AP

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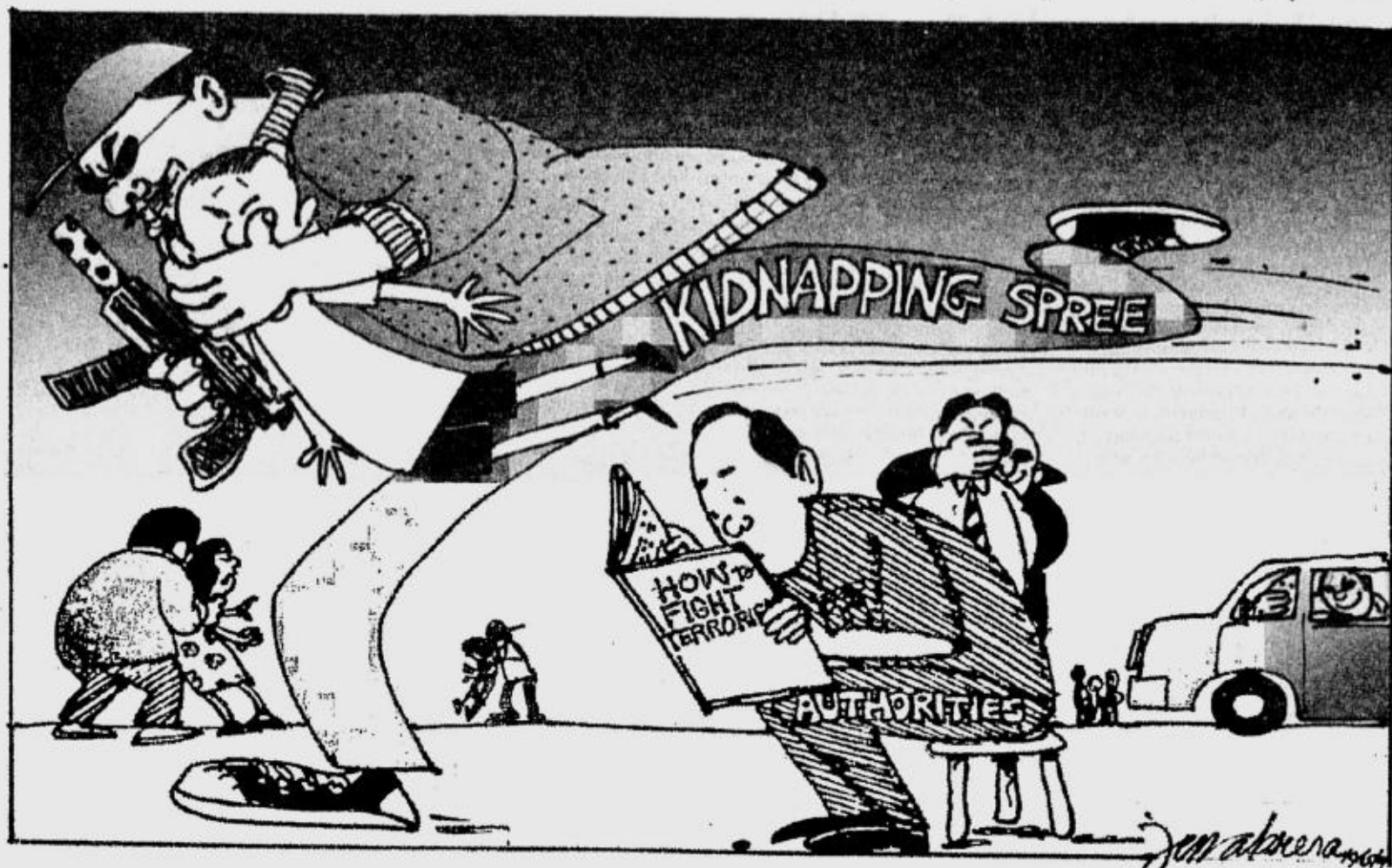
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A democratic war

IN 1917, to justify the entry of the United States in the then-raging First World War, US President Woodrow Wilson coined a phrase in his speech before the US Congress. "The world must be made safe for democracy." His words provided a catchy battle cry for America's soldiers and sailors, but very quickly, after the war ended in 1918 with less than clear results and unexpectedly disastrous consequences, the phrase became short-hand for a naive, potentially dangerous idealism.

EDITORIAL

Today, it would be difficult to argue that Wilson's present-day successor, George W. Bush, is vulnerable to the same kind of idealism. He has surrounded himself with veteran decision-makers, such as Colin Powell, the former chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and now secretary of state, and Donald Rumsfeld, now in his second engagement as secretary of defense. Pragmatic to the core, Bush's men do not subscribe to Wilson's somewhat academic sense of high-minded nobility.

Rather, the danger lies in the opposite direction. In waging what he calls the new war on terrorism, Bush has installed certain arrangements, certain restrictions, that will work to undermine the very democracy he has sworn to defend. If we have to coin a phrase, perhaps the following would do: Unwittingly, Bush may be making democracy safe for war.

What do we mean?

Bush says the world is engaged in a new war between democracy and its enemies. Addressing the US Congress several days after Middle Eastern terrorists damaged the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. and demolished the World Trade Center in New York City, Bush—like his father a decade before—drew a line in the sand. "Either you are with us or you are with the terrorists," he declared.

Others have pointed out that what Bush has also called the first war of the 21st century can be understood in other ways. A suspected terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden has called for a clash between the Islamic faith he says he represents and the Great Satan—the United States and the Western values it represents. Journalists with a long memory such as Robert Fisk have convincingly framed the conflict as one involving the entire history of a doomed people, the Palestinians, at the mercy of and subject to the double standards of the world's lone superpower, the United States, and its eye-for-an-eye ally in the Middle East, Israel. Some historians have spoken of a clash of civilizations.

Of course, from the ground, whether in the bombed-out mountain ranges of Afghanistan or the rain-soaked jungles of Basilan or the dusty villages of Palestine, it does not really matter how the United States and its allies choose to understand the war. All that's needed is to know that the considerable resources of the international coalition against terrorism, which includes the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the most powerful military alliance in history, are aimed at a certain enemy.

But because the United States is a democracy, and because it chooses to fight under the banner of all democratic regimes, it is bound to fight by democratic means. We don't mean a state of affairs where, for instance, a crew handling a cruise missile will take a vote before deciding to fire it or forget it; that's a caricature of the democracy we know, which is built on a division of labor and an appreciation for individual rights and responsibilities.

We mean war-time conditions where democratic imperatives are followed; fundamentally, we mean a war where the public's right to know is seen as basic to the will to fight, and served as such.

Sadly, the Bush administration has signaled its lack of confidence in the US (and by extension, all) media. It has kept to the unpopular media strictures first tried during the US invasion of Grenada and in place during the Gulf War, when journalists were not allowed independent access to the conflict. It has persuaded the US TV networks to limit the airing of Bin Laden footage, concerned that he may be sending coded signals to sleeper terrorists. In general, it has kept a tight lid on information.

It was slow to reveal to the international public what it called convincing proof of Bin Laden's culpability; it only released the information after British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who has a better appreciation of the requirements of coalition politics, revealed the proof to UK media.

The United States must realize: waging war on behalf of open societies around the world requires open methods. For this purpose, more media access and coverage are needed, not less.

A losing candidate is now sitting in the House

IN THE CONGRESSIONAL elections of May 14, 2001, Ormoc City Mayor Eufrocino Codilla Sr. won the election for representative of the fourth district of Leyte. He garnered 71,350 votes; incumbent Rep. Ma. Victoria L. Locsin got only 53,447 votes, or a plurality of 17,903 votes. Codilla was proclaimed on Sept. 12, 2001 and took his oath of office on the same day.

But why is the loser, Locsin, now sitting in the House as congressman for the fourth district of Leyte and not Codilla, the winner? Why is the candidate who was repudiated by the voters of Leyte representing them in Congress and the man they voted into office is outside looking in? Why is it the loser who is collecting the salary and allowances of the representative of the fourth district of Leyte and not the duly elected representative? This can happen only in the Philippines.

The reasons are many, among them the incompetence (and perhaps corruption) in the Commission on Elections, dirty politics, the crazy justice system in our country where lawyers, instead of delivering justice, can deny it from the deserving through legal technicalities, the "old boys club" that is the House of Representatives that protects its own no matter how wrong, and, pardon the expression, *pakapalan ng mukha*.

This is how a loser in the elections now happens to be sitting in the august halls of the House and its leadership refuses to recognize the winner, duly proclaimed by the Comelec.

One week before the May 14 elections, a petition for disqualification was filed against the leading candidate, Codilla, for violation of the Omnibus Election Code. Four days after Codilla was elected, the second division of the Comelec issued an *ex-parte* order, without notice and hearing, directing the Provincial Board of Canvassers of Leyte to suspend Codilla's proclamation until further orders. On June 14, 2001, exactly one month after being elected, the same second division of the Comelec issued a resolution disqualifying Codilla. The very next day, Locsin, without awaiting the finality of the disqualification decision, was proclaimed as the "duly elected member of the House of Representatives." She took her oath and assumed office as a member of the House on June 28, five days after the opening of Congress.

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz



Meanwhile, Codilla had sought a reconsideration of the disqualification ruling and filed a petition to declare Locsin's proclamation as null and void as she was not the "duly elected representative," being a mere second placer in the polls.

On Aug. 29, the Comelec en banc set aside Codilla's disqualification, ordered his proclamation as the winning candidate, declared the proclamation of Locsin as null and void, and ordered her to vacate the position. Codilla was proclaimed and took his oath of office on Sept. 12.

Two days later, Codilla went to the House and presented his "credentials": the certificate of votes, his proclamation as winning candidate and oath of office, and informed the House leadership that the Comelec decision of Aug. 29, 2001 has already become final and executory and should now be implemented.

Codilla was not allowed to assume his position, however. Reason: Locsin, being a reelectionist, has many friends in the House. One week later, Locsin's lawyers said that the Comelec has already lost jurisdiction over Locsin upon her "becoming a member of the House" and that it is now the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal (HRET) that has jurisdiction.

The question now is: Is there legal basis for the House to comply with the Comelec decision, now final and executory, annulling the proclamation of Locsin, the sitting incumbent, and proclaiming Codilla as the new winning candidate?

Yes, there is, ruled G.A. Mendoza Jr., deputy secretary general for legal affairs of the House. Mendoza gave the following justifications:

1. Codilla garnered the highest number of votes. This remains undisputed on record. In election law, unchallenged is the doctrine that the sanctity of the people's will must be given effect at all times and that all elective office are filled by those who have received the highest number of votes. (Aquino vs. Comelec, 248 SCRA 400, 1995) When the majority speaks and elects into office a candidate by giving him the highest number of votes cast in the election for that office, no one else can be declared in his place.

2. The proclamation of Locsin, the second placer, is a nullity. A second placer is the losing, not the winning, candidate. There is no law that can be invoked to justify the proclamation of a defeated candidate. In fact, the proclamation of a second placer is illegal even if the first placer is disqualified. (The remedy is to hold a special election for that position.—NHC) The reason is that a defeated candidate cannot represent the people who repudiated him. This is the settled jurisprudence.

3. The present situation is a mockery of the sovereign will: the repudiated candidate is discharging the public trust. The Comelec decision seeks to correct this injustice to the people. A decision not to comply with or not to implement the Comelec decision would close off the only available remedy under the circumstances to have this denial of the mandate of the people corrected.

4. Locsin's assumption of office was by virtue of a proclamation authorized by a Comelec decision disqualifying Codilla. She cannot now deny the authority of the Comelec to annul her proclamation and to proclaim a new winning candidate "to escape an adverse decision." (Tomorrow: Why the HRET has no jurisdiction over the case) ***

Comments are welcome at asiseeit@pacific.net.ph

Pictures

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Conrado de Quiros



soon as it appeared. It was easy to believe the announcer when she spoke of the American "operations" in Afghanistan. There was no other word for it. "Bombing" suggested a slew of arms and legs disentangled from bodies and blood spurting from open wounds. "Operation" was the apt word, suggesting the detached and clinical air of the deed, the vast and cavernous silence of the scene.

I remember that that was how it was too during the Gulf War. "Bombing" seemed too gross or impolite a word to use for what America subsequently did to Baghdad. The war in fact seemed little more than a computer game in an arcade, with kids aiming digital crosshairs at the enemy and shouting, "Game over, dude." Except that the people who looked at the blimps in monitors in fortresses of solitude were not kids, nor did they shout. They wore expensive suits and ties and spoke quietly of smart bombs, collateral damage and the anguish of making sacrifices to do "What Had To Be Done."

Neither they nor the people who now pilot the stealth planes that hatch bombs in Kabul and Kandahar will ever see the rubble they have made and the fragile—to use Sting's expressive word—bodies that lie beneath it. All the pilots will see are maps with circles in them and the consoles inside their jet planes with needles jerking crazily round and round them as they dive and soar faster than the speed of sound. They will not even see the glow of light billowing in the dark that they leave behind. The cockpit is a chrysalis freezing its occupant in space, making him impervious to wind and weight and rain on the faces of people in the silent world outside.

I don't know that there is a camera fast enough

to capture the faces of the pilots or slow enough to capture each flutter of muscle in the faces of those who monitor them in fortresses of solitude. But if there were, they would not show faces gripped with hatred and the euphoria of bloodlust. They would show impassive faces, faces made blank by having to stare at blank screens and blank spaces, faces made expressionless by the tedium of routine flights and routine strategies. They would show intelligent faces, pale faces unburned by sun and sand, harboring brains finely honed in schools that draw their wisdom from the ages, filled with mouths and arms and fingers that talk and move and push buttons with great purposefulness. They would even show sad faces, faces ravaged by moral dilemma, laden with the tragic burden of having to decree the sacrifice of Arab children to free the world from the bane of a devil in human form.

There they stand, or lie, side by side, two pictures. On one side, people with faces distorted in anger and hatred, ready to pounce with murderous zeal on those who probably sympathize with them, who are the journalists. On the other, people with faces filled alternately with sad and grim expressions, compelled to blot out with scientific thoroughness those who do not comply with their demands, who are the Washington and Pentagon officials. On one side, people with sticks and stones in their hands, ready to beat and maim and gouge the eyes of those they and Allah have proclaimed to be their enemies. On the other, people with maps and charts in their hands, compelled to take out, neutralize and put behind them those they and Yahweh have proclaimed to be their enemies. On one side, people who embody the very essence of anarchy, madness, fanaticism. On the other hand, people who embody the very essence of restraint, morality, reason.

Do pictures say more than a thousand words? Yes, they do, and probably even more than that. Do pictures always tell the truth about life?

No, they bloody well don't.

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

Like JDV, Thaksin seeks consolidation of ranks

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia hosted a breakfast last Saturday at the Champagne Room of the Manila Hotel for the recent state visitor, Thailand's Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. The night before, President Macapagal had tendered a state dinner for the Thai head of state. The Speaker had every reason to be elated with Thaksin's visit. For the latter had agreed to co-sponsor with President Macapagal the regional coalition against international terrorism that De Venecia had earlier proposed to President Macapagal just after the terrorist attacks on the United States, as a collective response from this part of the world. Ms Macapagal plans to propose the coalition at the summit of Asean heads in Brunei next month.

In addition, Thaksin has agreed to sponsor in October 2002 the next summit of Asian political parties that De Venecia first convened in Manila last year, when he was still out of government. They had met in Bangkok last August at an inter-parliamentary conference and De Venecia proposed to him that he host the next summit. Thaksin agreed after doubtless realizing that this would be a good forum for Asian unity. When he arrived in Manila, Thaksin already brought an official communication to this effect.

The Thai PM, who looks younger than his 52 years, has had an interesting political career despite the fact that he just came into office in January this year, straight from the corporate world where his fortune is estimated at \$1.4 billion. Many of us are familiar with Shinawatra telecommunications which is only one of many corporations that he owns. In his maiden venture into politics Thaksin won the biggest-ever parliamentary majority in Thai history and is considered the most popular elected leader. But he soon enough found himself in deep trouble: he was accused by the National Counter Corruption Commission of Thailand of having misdeclared his assets and concealing his true wealth, and violating the securities law. Ten politicians were tried for similar charges before the Constitutional Court, but interestingly only Thaksin was found not guilty by a very close 8-7 vote last August.

Thaksin's exoneration stirred deep controversy: while his Thai Rak Thai party rejoiced wildly, others were outraged, insinuating that jurists were bought; calls for their investigation persist. Other critics felt that the decision gave in to the popular mood to exonerate him, sacrificing

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



the reformist character of the new rigidly anti-corruption constitution that was inspired by the 1997 Asian financial crisis triggered by Thailand. Many felt that the much-touted political reform was dealt a blow by that decision, and that "the new rules were made to be bent or broken by those in power."

With the divisive court exoneration in his pocket Thaksin is gearing now to move Thailand's battered economy, in an effort to fulfill his campaign promise to the masses to give them a better life. That means consolidating his hold on parliament. Media reports note that it does not seem enough that his party won 249 out of the 500 seats in parliament; at the rate he is wooing the opposition and other smaller groups, his party is forecast to control 372 seats, leaving former Premier Chuan Leekpai's Democratic Party with just 127 seats. For observers nervously watching Thaksin's increasing authoritarian streak, including his strong hand versus the media in Thailand, however, this could mean the loss of an effective opposition.

As I read about Thaksin before coming to De Venecia's breakfast, I chuckled to myself at the similarity between Thaksin's move to consolidate ranks and De Venecia's famous moves to forge the "Sunshine Coalition" in the House. In fact, at breakfast I mentioned it to Lakas Rep. Ace Barbers of Surigao and he agreed about his leader's propensity. *Grabe*, Barbers said with a laugh, *kahit na ang dalawang Aksyon Demokratiko members in the House, ayaw niyang palampasin*. But in the same breath Barbers expressed his admiration for De Venecia's breadth of vision and range of knowledge. "*Wala pa ring tatalo kay Speaker sa mga bagay na 'yon*," he said.

Last month, Fr. Pierre Tritz, S.J., founder of the Erda Foundation that seeks to save the poorest students from becoming mere dropout statistics, celebrated his 87th birthday at the Hospital of the Infant Jesus in Sampaloc, Manila, where he

serves as chaplain in between his duties at Erda. A week later Erda Foundation celebrated its 27th anniversary in Quezon City, with the theme, "Partnership: A Significant Call for Organizational Sustainability." At that gathering, Father Tritz aired his familiar appeal to all his benefactors for more generosity, "so that the children of the world would have the kind of education that would ensure all mankind a better world to live in."

Over the past 27 years, Erda under Father Tritz's guidance has helped assure a better future for about 100,000 students from the poorest families, by ensuring that they are able to stay in school through various levels with Erda's material and socio-economic and psychological support. In the early '90s, Father Tritz opened another chapter in Erda's history by founding the technical-vocational school in Pandacan, Manila that now gives the poorest families from Metro Manila a free five-year high school education with special emphasis on technical training. The idea is to give them enough skills so they could be employed right after high school. Toward this end Father Tritz has been tirelessly tapping donors here and abroad.

Among the technical skills learned at Erda Tech is leathercraft, and there is an interesting sidelight to this. A few years back, the Swiss Army wanted to discard the leather leggings used by its soldiers, and 62,000 pairs of leggings (previously worn over boots) were gathered. The problem was what to do with them. The environment-conscious Swiss wouldn't burn them as this would pollute the atmosphere; recycling them in the land of Bally would cost too much. Then, someone thought of donating them, and the name of Father Tritz, who has by then come to be well-known in Europe with his begging bowl for impoverished Filipino children, was proposed. After negotiations, a container filled with the discarded leggings arrived in Manila.

Today students of Erda Technical-Vocational High School refashion them into wallets, key chains, passport and cellphone holders, with the cooperation of Tesda that provides the instructors and machines. A Swiss newspaper, the *Tribune of Geneva*, recently caught the story and an article titled, "The Resurrection of the Leggings of the Swiss Army" told about how poor schoolchildren of the Philippines now use these leggings "as a means to leave poverty." For information on these leather goods, call Father Tritz at Erda, Tel. Nos. 732-4327, 732-3198 and 732-7815.

Love-hate relationship with PDI columnists

ATTENDING to complaints by readers about the articles written or opinions expressed by INQUIRER columnists is not within my area of responsibility. I am limited to concerns raised about news and photos published by the newspaper.

The "hands-off" policy is based on the principle that columnists are invited to write because they have the expertise to analyze or discuss certain subject matters. Based on this presumption of competence, the columnists are held responsible by the editorial staff for whatever comment that appears in their columns and the consequences of any inaccurate or reckless statements.

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica



As a matter of policy, all complaints about the columnists' statements are sent directly to the columnists concerned for their information. If the reader disagrees with the position taken by a columnist and he wants his views publicly ventilated, the newspaper, subject to space and format requirements, will print his letter in the Letters section.

It is up to the columnist to respond to the letter if he wants to, but within the confines of his column only. The Letters section is the exclusive domain of the readers.

For the past months, I have been receiving complaints about some columnists. The complaints range from the columnists' use of abrasive language to lack of depth to difficulty in understanding what they were trying to say.

Last week, I got an e-mail that was critical of Kris Aquino's "Kris and Tell" column. It was similar to many other letters on the same subject matter that I received before. Instead of endorsing them to the Entertainment editor, I thought it would be a good idea to take it up in this column for the benefit of the affected readers.

This discussion should not be taken as a precedent for future complaints against other columnists. It should be treated as an information-sharing exercise only.

Sensible writing

The reader, C. Romulo, wrote: "Those of you in the editorial staff have to put a stop to the stupidity of Kris Aquino's column—come on, can't you recognize an airhead when you see one? Her latest column is nothing but product endorsement—if it's not Josh, it's her Expedition she is talking about."

"Give us readers a break, she is shallow, inane and egotistic—writing to draw attention to her pathetic life—and just because she is Ninoy's daughter? The sad thing about Philippine pop journalism is that anyone who can put two English words together is regarded as a writer. The standards have to be greater than that—so the suffering masses can find solace and inspiration in culture."

"Please spare us the agony and give us good, sensible writing. The reading public deserves better. You can do better. I'm sure it's not too much to ask."

According to the editorial staff, Kris was invited to write a column in the Entertainment section to give the reading pleasure to those readers who want to keep abreast of the goings-on in the movie and television industry and the social circuit in which Ninoy's youngest daughter moves around.

Her throaty manner of laughing and alleged tactless way of talking to the guests of her television show, not to mention the way she fixes herself and dresses up, have attracted a following among the youth above the teenage group but below the adult level.

I was told that once when her column did not appear as scheduled and the INQUIRER inadvertently failed to put a notice to explain her missing article, the newspaper received numerous calls from readers asking what happened to her column! Was she ill? Why did she not submit her article? Did the newspaper fail to get her article on time?

Judging from the letters the newspapers have received, many readers want to know where Kris does her shopping, what her favorite movies are, who she is going out with and various questions that show interest in the personal, social and professional aspects of her life.

In other words, her column addresses a particular niche or market in the INQUIRER's readership profile. That is no different from the way columnist Honesto General ("Questions of Policies") discusses insurance and retirement issues and columnist Augusto Villalon ("Spaced Out") tackles environmental and architectural matters.

Evaluation

I am no "Kris and Tell" column fan. Unless the title of her article is eye-catching, I skip her column. I have nothing against her. It's just that I do not enjoy news about actors or actresses or anything remotely connected with the movie and television industry. I'd rather spend my time on articles that can benefit me directly, whether personal or professional.

Obviously, I will not look for her column if I want to know more about important social, economic and political issues. There are other columnists who can competently meet my need for that kind of information or enlightenment.

For some readers, Kris may be a lousy writer. Or her column is a waste of precious ink and paper. But other readers think differently. They are interested in the things that she is interested in.

Her accounts about her son and her Expedition may be hogwash for some readers, but for her fans they are newsworthy events that deserve extensive play-up in her column. The political and social issues can go hang as far as Kris' loyal readers are concerned; what matters to them is what Kris thinks, feels and writes about the things that affect her.

I have noted from the letters I have received from the readers that each one has his or her favorite or hated columnist. Even columns that are primarily informative in nature or discuss subject matters that ordinarily should not stir controversy, like food and health, have their own share of criticisms.

Some readers enjoy Neal Cruz's ("As I See It") accounts about butterflies in his backyard; others dislike his tirades against government officials who the readers believe are performing well. Conrado de Quiros' ("There's the Rub") strikes some readers as a writer who uses highfalutin' words for their own sake, others find his comments on foreign events thought-provoking.

A number of readers consider the titles of Conrado Banal's ("Breaktime") articles corny, others think they are cute. Randy David's ("Public Lives") sober discussions in his column appeal to many readers, but an equal number think he is too highbrow and difficult to understand.

To date, the INQUIRER is home to 57 columnists who write on different subjects at different days of the week. Each one has his or her own niche or market to satisfy in the newspaper's corps of readers.

It is up to the readers to decide which columns to spend their reading time on and which to ignore.

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascarido Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

Toward a new Afghanistanism?

MORE than a decade ago, "Afghanistanism" appeared in the vocabulary of the media, particularly in the United States. The word was used to denote the habit of some lazy journalists who wrote about issues far from home such as the Afghan resistance to Soviet occupation, in order to evade reporting or commenting on the hottest items of the day. The term was also applied for the practice of commenting on or reporting foreign news if there was nothing newsworthy on the domestic scene.

Today, the word might yet acquire new meanings.

All over the world, it would seem, no paper claiming a readership exceeding the number of its writers and editors can do without an article or more on the ongoing US bombings in Afghanistan. In the Philippines, too, not only the national broadsheets, but also even local tabloids carry one or several items on the subject lately.

Hitherto employed to deprecate an escapist tendency in journalism, the word Afghanistanism may yet resurface as something akin to sensitive reporting or commentary. For the general public, though, that would be no cause for worry.

Another kind of potential Afghanistanism could be more terrifying, albeit avoidable.

Thanks to irresponsible media people, inadequately informed policymakers and jingoistic elements of society, a wave of strong emotions for or against Afghanistan is in the air. Only a little bit more circumspection, a little bit more

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Datu Amir Baraguir



caution, a little bit more restraint from all these sectors can stem this wave.

For instance, Muslim jingoists across the globe projected the US air strikes on Taliban targets in Afghanistan as a war against the Afghan Muslim people. Worse, against both the sacred religion of Islam and the Muslim World. In Muslim Mindanao, we do not run out of such characters. Whether in mosque pulpits or announcer's booths, they try to adduce Qur'anic verses to call for religious violence in the name of jihad. Acting as if they have a monopoly on the interpretation of the faith, these demagogues justify the acts attributed to Osama bin Laden as central to or, at least, part of Islam.

They also characterize the terror regime of the Taliban as Islamic government. "Jihad," they say, "is incumbent upon every Muslim since Islam and our brothers in faith are under attack."

As if this was not enough, some Christian reporters and commentators in print and broadcast media tried to justify the US attacks as necessary "to curb the rise of Islam which is threatening the Western democratic way of life."

To generate more vitriol, these anti-Muslim

individuals and groups attempted to present Islam as a threat to peace and civilization. For example, a writer in another Manila-based paper of national circulation took pains to "prove" that Islam is a theology of hatred. Quoting verses from the Qur'an out of context, the lunatic in the guise of a writer went on to conclude that only a concerted effort to combat Islam will save the free Christian world and its democratic tradition.

Others recommend the wiping out of Afghanistan from the world map. As if the people of Afghanistan—the first and worst hit victims of the Taliban—are guilty of the crimes perpetrated by the Taliban rulers against them and against the world. This, at a time when sympathy is the least that the poor Afghans expect from us, instead of malicious and false accusations.

All of these inadequate, fallacious, or downright malicious comments and reports for or against Afghanistan converge to mold an amalgam of vitriol necessary to tear the Muslims from the rest of the world.

Acting as a fiery fuel for an anti-Islam and anti-Afghanistan bandwagon, these have the imminent potential of making a new kind of Afghanistanism among the 1,000 million Muslims: an irrational and misplaced sympathy for those wrongly portrayed as defenders of the Afghan Muslims such as the Taliban regime and the arch-terrorist Bin Laden.

That, of course, will not do any good.

Reactions may be sent to datuamir@hotmail.com

September 11, 1922

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

sive resentments of the Islamic world against Israel and her supporters in the West. He explicitly states that Americans will never again know peace and security until Palestinians are able to enjoy peace and security.

Thus, the Nobel Peace Prize to the United Nations could not have come at a more promising yet perilous moment. The quarrel between the Palestinians and Israelis has gone on too long, festering like an open wound, threatening the whole world's stability. I think that most of the world is, well, tired of the ceaseless strife, the inflexible positions and the seemingly insoluble conflict between Palestinians and Jews. It's time to knock some heads together and force some kind of arrangement that is fair and equitable, perhaps under United Nations supervision. Such a historic rapprochement could help to defuse the escalating confrontation between the West and radical Islam that is pushing the world into war.

Over the years, US policy on the thorny issue of Palestine, has been often unwise or ineffective and not always even-handed. But the global war on terrorism may end up being unwinnable unless the Palestine issue is resolved once and for all. This could force the United States to take a good hard look at its long-standing policies, especially now that the Cold War is over and conditions are changing rapidly.

Many people were probably pleasantly surprised to hear US President George W. Bush say unequivocally that Palestinians deserve an independent state as much as Israel. Such an utterance would have been inconceivable not too long ago in the history of the Palestinian issue. How

much wider does the door have to be? Perhaps this is the moment we have all been waiting for, to finally solve this vexing problem between Jewish and Muslim brothers, a problem that has held the world hostage to its insolubility throughout much of the 20th century.

It would be nice if, as some people fantasize, the United States could unilaterally impose a solution to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. Perhaps some Americans have even harbored the conceit that they could in fact resolve the problem single-handedly. But the realities of a multi-cornered world will quickly impose its own discipline, one in which the United States will find itself working more closely with the United Nations and other international organizations to accomplish coalition goals.

For example, as US law enforcement and intelligence agencies tackled the problem of the financial networks used by al-Qaida and other terrorist organizations, there was a growing realization that international cooperation is essential to any effective program against them.

I hope that all this will lead to a continued strengthening of the United Nations and its agencies. The present crisis alerts us to the need for a new synthesis of how the world should resolve deep issues of international conflict while preventing outright acts of mass destruction. It is regrettable that the world can still be forced to the last resort of war and violence in order to defend democracy and freedom.

Until we can establish one democracy for all humanity, one United Nation of the world in which all human beings, everywhere, are citizens, equal before some universal law and free to practice their chosen faiths, we will have to make do with bodies like the United Nations to keep the peace and keep humanity moving forward. The Nobel Award emphatically reminds us that there are many ways to defend our most cherished values, without resorting to war, including diplomacy, negotiation and political compromise.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers



UNITED NATIONS supporters had plenty to cheer about this past week as the Centenary Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the United Nations and its outstanding secretary general, Kofi Annan. Things were going so well that even the United States decided to pay the United Nations nearly half-a-billion dollars in back dues that in recent years have been held back or delayed. (Building a worldwide coalition against terror may also have something to do with the sudden diligence.)

Now, before there ever was the United Nations, there was the ill-fated League of Nations, which was very similar in concept and intent, but which existed for only a few years in the aftermath of World War I.

One of the things that the League of Nations did during its short period of existence was to grant Great Britain a special "Mandate" to establish a homeland for the Jewish people in the territory of Palestine, which had been taken from the newly defeated Turkish Empire. History records that the administration of this mandate effectively began with the swearing into office as High Commissioner and Commander in Chief for Palestine of the Right Honourable Sir Herbert Samuel, in Jerusalem, on Sept. 11, 1922. A long history of strife and war began on that day and echoed in New York last month.

Later, the state of Israel was born. The Palestinians were displaced in a cruel diaspora and thrown into a cycle of generations being born and growing up in refugee camps. As the course of history during the last half century shows, the struggle between these two peoples, each with ancient claims to the same piece of earth in Israel-Palestine, continues, and now threatens to embroil the rest of humanity in a worldwide conflict.

Whether or not the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington last month were timed to coincide with some of these historic dates, is a matter of speculation. But in his videotaped statements, Osama bin Laden has made it clear that the issue of Palestine is at the heart of the explo-

No ruckus about costly LPG cylinders

THANK you for publishing my letter titled, "Why are LPG cylinders so costly?" on Sept. 27. Maybe as a result, I don't see the TV advertisement featuring Energy Secretary Vince Perez asking viewers not to scrimp on expensive but safe cylinders anymore. I said the cylinders need not be expensive as oil companies and their dealers could still profit even if they reduce their prices. Imagine making at least P800 per cylinder. (They're selling cylinders at P1,400 to P1,600 while cost to them is less than P700.) Cylinder manufacturers, already with profit, sell them at about P550. The valves sell at about P100.

However, except for the pullout, there seems to be no reaction from those who should be more concerned. The advertisement was not the problem, it was the cylinder price. As if by pulling out the advertisement, the problem is forgotten. A check with the LPG dealers shows that the price of the cylinder is unchanged. The Department of Energy and the Department of Trade and Industries have not been heard from, even the Oil Price Watch. And even the housewives, militant groups and of course, the oil companies don't seem to care.

Consider this. Each year, every oil company places orders for new cylinders at an average of 200,000 pieces. Multiply this by P800 (net

income per cylinder), that's a cool P160 million per oil company per year. Cylinder *pa lang ito*. (Annually, about 800,000 cylinders are produced and sold to housewives and eateries.) This goes to show how true it is that these companies are raking it in because each step of the way, from the crude oil from their mother companies, to the local refineries and to the dealers, they're making too much money on gasoline, diesel, motor oil, kerosene and LPG. *Pati ba naman sa tangke! Iba pa 'yung tax credit scam.*

The silly rationale being given is that cylinders are not sold, but only being rented to buyers, who in return make a deposit so the housewife is lulled into thinking that she can get her deposit back, anytime. She loses nothing, so to speak. Granted, but why are deposits much higher than the cost? And who is the LPG consumer that ever returns a cylinder after use? That empty cylinder is exchanged for another one filled with LPG every month, forever, or until the housewives revert to wood or electricity in cooking. No one returns an empty cylinder to get his deposit back, not even one percent of the approximately 10 million cylinders in circulation is returned.

And here's the big catch. If, as the oil companies are saying that the cylinders are not sold but are just

rented out and only a deposit paid on them, then they must be doing something in their financial reports. As any bookkeeper would know, if there is no sale, there is no income, and therefore nothing to tax. If it is just a deposit, it is not in a revenue account, but a liability account, that is, "Deposits on Containers." This account could run into billions without tax being paid, or even by a simple journal voucher entry, could be reversed to oblivion. Paging the Bureau of Internal Revenue. These are just probabilities. So will somebody please check? I'll bet these oil companies don't even know (or care) how many cylinders they have in circulation.

I repeat, those cylinders plus valves, do not cost more than P700 each to the oil companies. At a 10-percent profit, they should not sell at more than P770. And so, a reminder to consumers: every time you see an LPG cylinder in your house, or your restaurant, or fast-food stall, or even your fishball pushcart, remember that you paid P800 more for that piece of steel. Aren't we all gullible? Millions of us?

The oil companies have Filipino executives and managers, why are they bleeding their countrymen dry in favor of their foreign bosses? How selfish!—**ALBERTO F. DEL PILAR, 1 Apo St., Suburban Heights Subd., Cainta, Rizal**



In God's own time

THIS is how I feel about the attack on the World Trade Center.

God gave man two gifts: knowledge and intelligence so man can rise above all creation.

Knowledge to discern truth from falsehood, good from evil and right from wrong. Intelligence so that knowing he may speak the truth, do good and right the wrong.

To find out how man uses these gifts, God added free will for him to choose to tell the truth or to lie; to help his fellowmen to glow in his own light or to keep him in darkness; to draw out the goodness in others for the rest to emulate or to infuse evil thoughts of destruction; to develop love for other human beings no matter their color or creed; or to nurture hatred for others just because they are better-equipped and more advanced.

No matter how convincing the reason for the unreasonable magnitude of destruction to life and property, in the final analysis, the good wins in God's own time because the source of all goodness is God.—**ROSARIO R. LIBERATO, 21 Molave St., M. Romeo Village, Sta. Lucia, Pasig City**

Napocor unions want a hand in picking reinsurers

WE, the 10,001 members of the NPC Executive's Association Inc. (EXAI), Napocor Employees Consolidated Union (Necu) and Napocor Employees and Workers Union (Newu) express our strong support for Jesus N. Alcorido's crusade to get the best terms for the insurance coverage of the National Power Corp.'s assets.

We feel it is our sworn duty to ensure that reforms as called for in the Electric Industry Reform Act be given full emphasis.

We appreciate the mandate of the Government Service Insurance System to secure insurance for government-owned assets. But this should not give this institution the blanket authority to impose its choice of reinsurers on government corporations like the Napocor.

GSIS president Winston Garcia was quoted as saying that the "Napocor is meddling in the insurance business which is the exclusive domain and expertise of the GSIS."

We know for a fact that the only reason our Napocor president wanted to intervene in the choice of our industrial all-risk (IAR) insurer is to secure the best deal for the government—the Napocor in this case.

This is because it has been found out that the reinsurers the GSIS picked in the previous years did not live up to the standard expectations from such a reinsurance deal as the Napocor should normally would have.

For some unexplained reasons, the Napocor has not been able to collect the proper amounts due from our insurance claims despite enormous premium payments we have been remitting to the GSIS. This is an unavoidable cost that could greatly reduce the Napocor's expenses and losses. We are adversely affected because of the perception that losses incurred are caused by inefficiency.

The Napocor should be given the opportunity to participate in the process of selecting its reinsurer through a joint public bidding as directed by Malacañang in order to ensure utmost transparency for the sake of public interest.—**EDMUND P. ANGULUAN, president, NPC Executive's Association Inc.; ABNER P. ELERIA, president, Napocor Employees Consolidated Union; ARMANDO S. JAVIER, president, Napocor Employees and Workers Union, National Power Corp., Corner Quezon Avenue and Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City**

The mess that is Quezon City Hall

I WOULD like to call the attention of Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte to the irregularities, unnecessary delays and red tape at the Bureau of Permit and Licensing Division.

During the terms of Mayors Brigido Simon Jr. and Ismael Mathay Jr., business permits and licenses were issued in only one to two days from their date of application, and speedier for new applications which can be obtained on the spot upon presentation of a DTI, and an assessment fee of less than P800 or P1,000 only. Now, with Mayor Feliciano "Serbisong Bayan"

Belmonte, at least 10 irrelevant and duplicative requirements are imposed by the evaluators and assessors excluding goodwill money, inspection fees, kickbacks and commissions.

Generally required are DTI, fire, electrical, sanitary, locational clearances, pollution clearance, barangay clearance, TIN, CTAO clearance, mechanical clearance, police clearance and hold your breath, "goodwill cash clearance" or fixing clearance from the Assessors Office, etc. to comply with all of the above pestilence. To secure a mayor's permit, you have to do legwork and "pocket

work" of at least three to four weeks and at least a substantial cash for "unreceipted" fees.

Belmonte ran on the platform of "Serbisong Bayan" and "Maawa Sa QC." In only four months, the Quezon City Hall is in a mess and the corruption going on in the Bureau of Permit and Licensing Office has grown so massive. Anyone who intends to do business and secure a mayor's permit should now think twice or transfer to another city. It is not "Serbisong Bayan" but "Perwisyo ng Bayan" and "Nakakaawa ang QC."—**ALFREDO CRUZ, 121 Del Monte Ave., Frisco, Quezon City**

Maternity benefit already adjusted

THIS is in reference to the letter of Edna Austria, which appeared in the July 21 issue of the *Inquirer*. Austria complained about alleged inaction of the Social Security System on her request for a recomputation of her maternity benefit.

According to our records, Austria's maternity benefit has been

adjusted on Aug. 23 in the amount of P6,200. The check will be mailed to her employer, Policy Review and Editorial Services.

For employed members, the SSS maternity benefit is advanced by the employer. The SSS reimburses the amount to the employer upon presentation of proof that the

amount was advanced to the employee.

For further details, we request Austria to coordinate with the SSS branch in Quezon City.—**JOEL P. PALACIOS, assistant vice president, Media Affairs Department, Social Security System, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City**

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascarido Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph. Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.



We've added more flights to Taipei

Beginning October 28, Philippine Airlines gives you as many as 11 flights—7 days a week, mornings and evenings—from Manila to Taipei. Choose from 4 morning flights—taking off at 8:00 am every Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and arriving in Taipei at 10:00 am. Or, if you prefer an evening flight, our planes depart daily at 9:20 pm, and arrive in Taipei at 11:20 pm.

Enjoy the benefits of these flexible flight schedules, and be captivated by Taipei's unique fusion of old-world Asian charm and fast-paced modern lifestyles.

What's more, PAL gives you the chance to **double** your PALsmiles mileage credits on these flights, as well as on all our domestic and international flights, if you fly from now until November 30, 2001.

Get the most convenient flight arrangements and more! Only from Philippine Airlines.



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For bookings and inquiries, call PAL reservations at 855-8888 or your travel agent, visit the nearest PAL ticket office or our online booking at www.philippineair.com and get a chance to win a free holiday tour package for two.

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

US won't attack Saddam—for now

WASHINGTON—While bombs and missiles rock Afghanistan night and day, the sky over Baghdad is quiet.

The Bush administration is leaving Iraq for another day because it has been unable to link Saddam Hussein to the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States and is hesitant to alienate Muslim allies in the region.

The United States is "watching him very carefully," President George W. Bush said, to make sure Iraq does not exploit the situation to attack Israel or threaten its neighbors or Iraqi minorities.

Osama bin Laden, the suspected mastermind behind the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks, clearly has replaced the Iraqi president as public enemy No. 1.

"We'll take these things one at a time," US Secretary of State Colin Powell said when asked about military strikes beyond Afghanistan. Powell's more moderate views appear to be prevailing—for now.

Hard-liners still hope to go after Saddam in the wider war Bush has pledged against terrorists and states that harbor them. But even some usually outspoken advocates of intervention in Iraq are counseling a wait-and-see approach.

"I don't think we should do too much at once here," said Sen. Sam Brownback, a Republican on a Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on the region. "At the appropriate time, we should move forward in pressing for a regime change in Iraq."

Added Iraq analyst Laurie Mylroie, "I think that decision has been postponed." She believes Saddam

played a role in both the Sept. 11 attacks and the 1998 bombings of US embassies in Tanzania and Kenya.

"My concern is that we might get bogged down in Afghanistan" and ignore Iraq, she said.

Others suggesting an Iraqi link to the Sept. 11 attacks include former CIA Director James Woolsey and former National Security Agency head William Odom. Their contentions were bolstered by reports that an Iraqi diplomat held clandestine meetings in the Czech Republic last year with suspected hijacker Mohamed Atta.

But US officials say they lack any compelling information to tie Iraq to the attacks or to al-Qaida, Bin Laden's network.

The State Department's annual report on terrorism lists Iraq, implicated in the failed plot to assassinate former President Bush in 1993 in Kuwait, and six other nations as sponsors of international terrorism.

Charles Duelfer, an American who was deputy chairman of the UN agency that was responsible for disarming Iraq after the 1991 Gulf War, said he doubts there was "any command relationship" between the Iraqi regime and the hijackers.

"In my experience, Saddam is not suicidal," Duelfer said in an interview. "For him to engage in something that would have a fair prospect of being traced back to him... I don't think he's willing to take that chance."

Iraq's expulsion of the UN arms inspectors in late 1998 led to four days of US and British air strikes.

AP

Bin Laden's 'secret signal'

NEW YORK—In a taped statement beamed around the world one week ago, Osama bin Laden may have given terrorists the go-ahead to launch a new strike against US interests, Time Magazine reported in Monday's editions.

The magazine reported that a former al-Qaida follower told US intelligence officials bin Laden would not normally use the term "I swear to God" which ended his statement.

In its entirety, the sentence at the end of his pre-recorded message was: "I swear to God that America will not live in peace before peace reigns in Palestine, and before all the army of infidels depart the land of Muhammad."

In the same address, Bin Laden defiantly praised the Sept. 11 hijack bombings on New York and Washington, saying "a vanguard group of Muslims" was behind the jetliner attacks which razed the World Trade Center in New York and damaged the Pentagon.

Bin Laden, considered by the United States to be the prime suspect in the attacks, used Qatar's al-Jazeera satellite channel to broadcast the statement.

However, the Saudi-born millionaire, flanked by commanders of his al-Qaida network and surrounded by automatic weapons, stopped short of claiming responsibility for the attacks which have left more than 5,000 people dead.

AFP

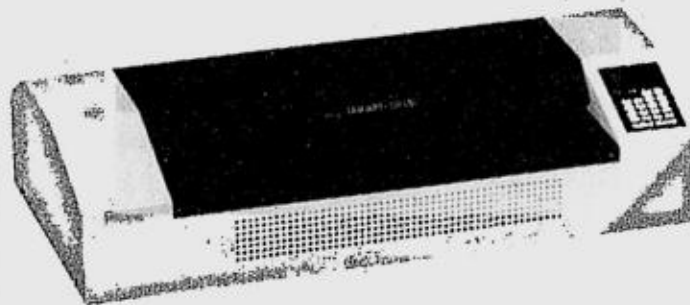
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Pakistan protests turn violent; 11 shot

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JACOBABAD, Pakistan—Eleven people, including three policemen, were shot and taken to hospital after anti-US protests erupted into violence near an airfield being used by US forces here Sunday, police said.

A spokesperson for the radical Islamic Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) party, which called the demonstration, said one of the protesters was killed but police could not confirm this.

Police spokesperson Mohammad Riaz said three police officers and eight protesters were taken to hospital suffering gunshot wounds when the demonstration turned violent on the outskirts of this southwestern city.

"The protesters tried to break the police picket and also fired on police," Riaz said. "In retaliation, police fired back."

Police earlier said they had arrested at least 400 Islamic radicals attempting to join the protest at an airfield which Pakistan has agreed US forces can use for support operations in its campaign against Afghanistan.

The JUI spokesperson, Abdul Ghafoor, claimed more than 2,000 people had been arrested trying to enter Jacobabad, where the airfield is located.

"The police are arresting anyone with a beard," Ghafoor said.

Despite the crackdown, 4,000 militants had gathered in the city center and were preparing to march to the airport, Ghafoor said. AFP



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Israeli marksmen liquidate Hamas activist in his home

NABLUS, West Bank—Israeli army sharpshooters killed an activist of the Palestinian Islamic movement Hamas in the West Bank town of Kalkilya on Sunday, Palestinian security sources said.

Abdul Rahman Hamad, 35, was on the roof of his home a few hundred meters from the Green Line separating the West Bank from Israel when he was shot several times in the head.

Israeli army radio said it was a "targeted" operation, of the type which since November 2000 has killed more than 50 Palestinians accused by Israel of "terrorist" acts.

It said the hit had been carried out by an elite army unit.

A total of 874 people have now been killed in the year-old intifada, among them 675 Palestinians and 176 Israelis.

Palestinian information minister Yasser Abed Rabbo told Voice of Palestine radio: "This is a crime and means the Israeli promises for calm are mere lies and we cannot trust them."

The killing was the first targeted liquidation of a suspected Palestinian militant since Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat met Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on September 26 to shore up a tentative ceasefire arrangement.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's office, without officially that confirming Israeli troops killed Hamad, issued a statement accusing him of having organized the suicide bombing of a Tel Aviv nightclub on June 1 that cost 23 lives.

"Israeli security services also gave the Palestinian police information about other planned attacks by this terrorist. He was arrested with two of his lieutenants, then released August 5 by Palestinian police," it said.

"Shortly after his release he resumed preparations for a suicide bombing which was due to be carried out in the coming days," according to the statement.

It said Hamad was part of the armed wing of Hamas and been expelled to Lebanon in the 1990s with around 400 Islamic militants before being allowed to return. He had had been arrested by Israeli forces seven times.

Sharon's spokesperson Raanan Gissin merely said "this terrorist will not be able to kill any more innocent people."

"The Israeli cabinet decided recently, after the terrorist attacks continued, to exercise its right to self-defense and take all the steps necessary whenever we know an attack is about to be committed," he said.

Palestinian officials say the targeted killings amount to "state terrorism."

AFP

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Goat and Sheep Raising postponed for a later date.

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OCT. 23-24	9-5:30	MAYED PRODUCTS FOR CHRISTMAS GIVEAWAYS	1,540.00
OCT. 24-26	9-5:30	AFFORDABLE BAKERY PRODUCTS ("Pang-mas")	1,925.00
OCT. 27-29	9-5:30	HOW TO BE A CANTEN CONCESSIONAIRE (with field trip)	1,771.00
OCT. 27-29	9-12:00	FREE DEMOS (WTC): Calamansi Processing, Oct. 19 (5-3 p.m.); Homemade Yogurt, Oct. 19 (5-3 p.m.);	
OCT. 27-30	9-5:30	COMMERCIAL BREADMAKING & BAKERY MGT.	2,079.00

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South Korean under pressure to delay inter-Korean talks

SEOUL—South Korea may have to delay inter-Korean rapprochement talks due to growing public anger over the North's abrupt cancellation of family reunions, newspapers said Sunday.

Seoul is also ready to reject the North's proposal that the two Koreas meet at the North's scenic Mount Kumgang this week for previously agreed talks on ways to promote tours to the area, the Dong-A newspaper said.

The North's new offer came a day after Pyongyang abruptly called off reunions of families torn apart since the 1950-1953 Korean War, because of what it deemed the tense atmosphere created in the South following the terrorist attacks in the United States.

Pyeongyang described Kumgang as a safe place for inter-Korean talks. But Seoul stressed its tightened security cannot be the reason for the North to postpone the family visits.

The South Korean government is under public pressure to delay other meetings including an inter-Korean economic cooperation meeting from Oct. 23 in Seoul and ministerial talks from Oct. 28 in Pyongyang.

After a six-month hiatus, the two Koreas agreed to put their faltering peace process back on track when they resumed talks last month.

But the North is still reluctant to build a railway and land routes across the demilitarized zone.

Dongkuk University professor Koh Yoo-hwan said the North is more interested in securing economic assistance from the South.

"The postponement of family reunions reflects the North's position that it is only interested in securing economic assistance," he said.

Cho Myong-chul, a North Korea watcher, said the North appears to be nervous at US attacks in Afghanistan.

"This is seen as a warning that the US campaign against terrorism must not target the North," he said.

In putting off the fourth round of family reunions, the North warned that the South's tightened security created "an unpredictable atmosphere of tension."

"This is a dangerous act" which is "getting on the nerves of the North," the North said.

North Korea, still on a US list of states backing terrorism, has put armed forces on heightened alert after terror attacks in the United States, Yonhap news agency said on Sunday.

The North's move came in response to security steps taken by the South Korean military, it said.

Yonhap quoted an unnamed South Korean government official as saying: "The North Korean military instructed all its units to strengthen vigilance right after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks."

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11 mine firms eyeing Vizcaya

ARITAO, Nueva Vizcaya—At least 11 more mining companies are set to conduct "sand and gravel extraction" in the province, raising concerns among local residents that the activities are mere fronts for mining operations.

According to the applications for mineral production sharing agreement (MPSA), the firms are interested in exploring about 600 hectares in four villages at the border of Aritao and Dupax del Sur towns.

Aritao Mayor Ruben Sayo said personnel of the mining firms were already in their areas conducting information campaigns among residents as part of an agreement with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Under the MPSA applications, the DENR will issue permits to firms for the "extraction and disposition of sand and gravel and other associated minerals," subject to the provisions of Republic Act 7942 or the Philippine Mining Act of 1995.

Companies are each given a two-year contract that is renewable for another period.

Proponents of the quarrying activities should prove the social acceptability of the project by getting the consent of affected residents, Sayo said.

Most of the 11 companies plan to conduct quarry operations along the banks of the Marang and Sta. Fe rivers.

The quarry applications for the 11 firms were registered with the Cagayan Valley office of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau on the same day, Feb. 22, 2001, according to documents obtained by the INQUIRER.

Sr. Eden Orlino, director of the Social Action Center of the Diocese of Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino, expressed apprehension that the proposed quarrying activities would be used in the companies' exploration and actual mining for valuable minerals.

The area lies at the river downstream and foothills of the ore-rich Mamparang mountain range in eastern Nueva Vizcaya.

"This is normally the case. They would start to apply for sand and gravel extraction, but most often, it's actually mining," she said.

Residents in the area also feared that quarrying would result in the lowering of the riverbanks. They said this would lead to flooding of ricelands and nearby villages every time the rivers swell during typhoons and strong rains.

"Even before they (company personnel) arrived at the area, their applications have been met with opposition from the residents," Sayo said.

"But I explained to them that we have yet to listen to what they (companies) had to say about their plans. For all we know, we may get some benefits from these operations," he said.

Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DENR-Isabela chief sacked

ILAGAN, Isabela—Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez relieved the provincial environment and natural resources officer (Penro) here for his failure to curb illegal logging in the province.

The relief of Romualdo Villador came on the heels of persistent reports of illegal logging in the coastal town of Dinapigue and elsewhere.

Alvarez said he had sent a team to document alleged illegal logging in Isabela, where the Sierra Madre natural park is found.

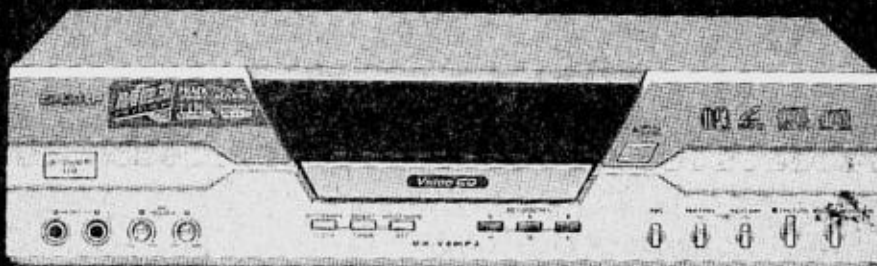
Villador said he was ready to answer all allegations and face an investigation. "I did not fall short of my job in stopping illegal logging activities, but I could not guard all mountains in my area," he said.

Alvarez, through a recommendation from DENR Regional Director Alfredo Pascual, approved the appointment of Felix Taguba as officer-in-charge of the DENR-Isabela.

Villador will be temporarily assigned to the regional director's office in Tuguegarao City while waiting for an executive position at the DENR office in Quirino. Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

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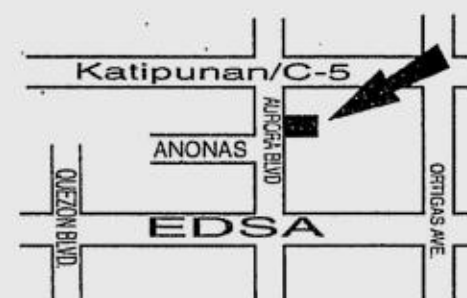


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'Halal' meat exports seen

DAVAO CITY—At least seven slaughterhouses, which will produce *halal* meat for export to Muslim countries will be established in Mindanao, according to the Department of Agriculture.

Agriculture Undersecretary Cesar Drilon said the department had already allocated funds for setting up the facilities, each costing around P3 million.

He said the government would be taking advantage of a recent pronouncement from the Office Internationale des Epizooties that identified Mindanao as a foot-and-mouth disease-free zone.

Drilon told reporters during the 1st Mindanao Livestock Development seminar here on Thursday that the *halal* meat industry in the world is about \$150 billion.

Halal meat is produced from animals slaughtered in accordance with Islamic rites.

He said the country's effort to develop its *halal* meat industry would directly compete with Malaysia, Brunei and Indonesia.

"We will also compete with Thailand, which is one of the sources of meat imports for (Muslim countries)," he said.

Among the areas eyed for the establishment of the *halal* plants are the cities of Davao, Pagadian, South Cotabato and Cotabato. Joel Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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Par DTI-NCR Permit No. 1475 Series of 2001

Boracay remains safe for tourists, says DOT exec

BY MA. DIOSA LABISTE
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Boracay in Aklan remains safe for tourists as police authorities tighten their watch over the world-famous island-resort, according to tourism officials.

Edwin Trompeta, tourism regional director, maintained that Boracay was safe for foreign visitors in the wake of a United States travel advisory warning visitors of the risk in traveling to cer-

tain areas in the Philippines.

"Boracay is safe. If the advisory includes Boracay in the list, it might as well declare the whole country unsafe to any foreign visitor," Trompeta said.

In a media statement, Mayor Cicero Caualing of Malay town in Aklan also said Boracay Island remained safe for tourists.

The recent US travel advisory, issued on Oct. 5, warned Americans of an "increased risk of terrorist actions," such as kidnappings, bombings and

other violent incidents, which are likely to be mounted by "extremist groups."

It warned Americans against camping or hiking near Mt. Pinatubo or visiting southern and western areas of Mindanao, including Zamboanga City, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi and Jolo.

Although the advisory did not mention Boracay, the Philippine National Police in Western Visayas said it had tightened its watch over Boracay, one of the

top tourist destinations in the country.

Supt. Norlito Bautista, regional police community relations chief, told a local television station that the PNP has been keeping a close watch over Boracay as kidnappers may strike at tourist destinations.

Trompeta said Boracay was never placed on the watch list and had not figured in travel advisories of foreign embassies.

The PNP regional office has ordered its personnel to seal off the island from possible attacks of bandits, as well as closely monitor the safety of tourists.

Trompeta said 30 police personnel were on the island, 10 of them part of an augmentation force sent there after tourists were seized by Abu Sayyaf bandits from the Dos Palmas Island Resort in Palawan early this year.

The police oversee peace and order

in the tourist areas and also man the four lookout points.

In August, 30 Army soldiers were sent to Boracay to beef up the police force. Seaborne patrol has been a regular sight on the island.

At Caticlan Port, the jump-off point from mainland Panay to the island, Coast Guard personnel and the PNP Maritime Command have been posted to check on passengers.

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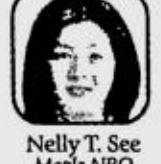
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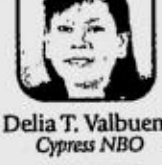
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5 more test positive for exposure to anthrax

(From page A1)

poised to strike again.

In Washington, however, President George W. Bush sought to calm the nerves of jittery Americans as the White House dismissed as mere propaganda the latest round of threats by Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network.

Authorities have found no link between the anthrax cases and the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

The anthrax scare began last week when a photo editor of The Sun tabloid based in Florida died of the inhaled form of anthrax. It was the first death in the United States related to anthrax in 25 years.

The American Media Inc. building where the editor, Bob Stevens, worked was sealed off after anthrax was found on his keyboard.

Two other employees turned out to have anthrax in their nasal passages, but neither has developed the disease. Both are taking antibiotics, and one has returned to work.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention notified the com-

pany on Saturday that another five of its employees had shown antibodies of anthrax in their blood.

Gerald McKelvey, a spokesperson for American Media that publishes The Sun, announced the five additional exposures. But none of the five were sick or confined in the hospital.

"It means they had an exposure," McKelvey said. "It doesn't mean they have anthrax."

Authorities earlier said the anthrax might have come from a Sept. 20 letter sent from Florida.

Nevada

In Nevada, Gov. Kenny Guinn said a third anthrax test on a letter sent from Malaysia to a Microsoft office in Reno came back positive, but added that the risk to public health was "very, very low."

Four Microsoft employees have been tested to date, with the results expected Monday or Tuesday, a company spokesperson said.

"If the CDC results are positive for a disease-causing strain, there's still a very low risk for anyone outside the four who had direct contact with the envelope," he said.

The Malaysian government on Sunday pledged to bring "the full weight of the law" against anyone shown to be involved in a letter sent from Malaysia to the Microsoft office in Nevada.

Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar said Malaysian officials were "shocked and deeply disturbed" over the matter. He said the government had appealed to the FBI for all relevant information about the case.

"At this time, we have not been able to confirm that the letter did indeed originate from Malaysia, or that it was not tampered with in the United States itself," Syed Hamid said in a statement.

He said it was "highly unlikely" that any group linked to terrorism in Malaysia had access to biological strains such as the anthrax bacteria. He did not identify which groups he meant.

New York

A day after authorities announced that an employee of NBC television news in New York had been infected by anthrax contained in a threatening letter, officials said the letter was sent from New Jersey

one week after the Sept. 11 attacks.

A second NBC employee had possible symptoms of anthrax, including a low-grade fever, swollen lymph nodes and a rash, health officials said.

The unidentified employee was taking antibiotics, said Neal Shapiro, the network's news president. "She's fine," he said.

The letter, postmarked Sept. 18 in Trenton, New Jersey, tested positive for anthrax, New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said.

Spooked New Yorkers scurried to emergency rooms and pharmacies for anthrax tests and prescriptions for the antibiotic Cipro. Some drugstores ran out, or limited the amounts they would sell to customers.

"We're filling it right now about 75 times more than usual," pharmacist Amy Sidney said.

A letter containing powder was also sent to The New York Times, but the newspaper said that the white substance in the envelope received by reporter Judith Miller—who co-wrote a recent bestseller on bioterrorism—tested negative for anthrax.

Results from additional tests by the CDC were not expected until

Tuesday, a Times spokesperson said.

Miller and about 30 co-workers were in the area when the envelope was opened. All are taking antibiotics, and results of their anthrax tests will be released Monday.

An envelope with a powdery substance on the outside was found in the mail at CBS News' Washington bureau Saturday. The envelope was turned over to the FBI, and tests were negative for anthrax, CBS News spokesperson Sandy Genelius said.

Assurance

"I understand that many Americans are feeling uneasy. But all Americans should be assured we are taking strong precautions, we are

vigilant," Bush said Saturday.

Warning of a new "storm of airplanes," Bin Laden supporters advised Muslims in the United States and Britain to avoid flying and to stay away from tall buildings.

An al-Qaida spokesperson also said the US president and his father, former President George Bush, would not escape punishment for "crimes" against Muslims. Former US President Bill Clinton, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon also faced the same fate, he said.

"We dismiss it," said a White House spokesperson, Jennifer Millerwise. "This is just more propaganda." AP

Taliban brings journalists to scenes of devastation

(From page A1)

dawn until Sunday mid-morning.

In the eastern village of Kadam, near Jalalabad, an Agence France Presse reporter saw the destruction first-hand as the Taliban escorted international journalists through a rural community which was bombed in the early hours of Thursday.

Dozens of houses had collapsed and survivors put the death toll between 180 to 230, matching earlier Taliban claims that some 200 villagers had perished.

"One hundred and eighty people died here. Why are the Americans attacking our innocent people?" Kadam resident Gul Ahmed told the AFP.

"I have lost my nearest and dearest. Why have they been killed? What is our crime?" another villager, Haji Nazir, asked.

Abdul Rasool, 40, said his was one of the homes destroyed. His wife, whose name he did not want to give, and three sons, Satik, 6, Turial, 10, and Pardes, 15, were all killed.

Rasool escaped. As he has done every day of his adult life, he rose before dawn to attend morning prayers. He was on his way home, at around 5 a.m. when the bomb struck.

"I heard a huge bang and I ran to my house but there was nothing I could do. It was completely destroyed," he said.

"My family, all my animals are dead. I have nothing left. Why has this happened to me?"

Pentagon

The Pentagon has not commented on the incident in Kadam but has confirmed that a 2,000-pound (907-kilo) bomb aimed at a military helicopter hit a residential area near Kabul airport on Saturday.

A Pentagon official, who asked not to be identified, said the satellite-guided bomb went astray because someone entered a wrong digit in the target coordinates.

The Taliban claims more than 300 civilians have been killed since the bombings began on Oct. 7, but the numbers have been virtually impossible to verify because of severe restrictions on the movement of journalists around the country.

The Taliban introduced the villagers whom journalists interviewed at Kadam. But it was clear to the visiting journalists that the village had been decimated.

The Pakistan-based AIP said residential areas of Jalalabad were hit again overnight Saturday but there were no reports of casualties.

It said the suburbs of Kabul were hit with bombs and cruise missiles

fired from ships in the Arabian Sea, while the southern Taliban stronghold of Kandahar and the western city of Herat were also pounded repeatedly.

A senior Taliban military official told AFP that US forces had struck the militia's military base at Qeshla Jadeed, about 4 km from the center of Kandahar.

A Taliban information official, Mohammad Hamid, said more explosions could be heard around Kandahar in the daylight hours of Sunday morning.

"The bombing started again this morning but it's hard to say how many planes are involved because they're flying at such a high altitude," he said.

Paying the price

In Washington, Bush used his weekly radio broadcast to update Americans on the various facets of his response to the Sept. 11 attacks and the continuing terrorist threat.

"We're making a determined effort to take away his hiding places," Bush said.

He declared that a week of bombing raids had "crippled" the Taliban's air defenses and disrupted al-Qaida operations inside Afghanistan.

"I warned that time was running out for the Taliban to turn over the terrorists they shelter. They did not listen, and they are paying a price," Bush said.

At Camp David for the weekend, Bush was updated—via video conference with top military and intelligence advisers—on both the anthrax investigations and the military assault on Afghanistan's Taliban militia.

The Department of State also announced arrangements to expand American troop operations near the Afghan border.

But a British official involved in the US-led military campaign said there was no plan for "swarms and swarms of troops all over Afghanistan."

"There will be some activity," Clare Short, Britain's secretary for international development, told BBC radio. "There isn't going to be a mass land invasion."

Under a new agreement with Uzbekistan, the United States pledged to protect the security of the former Soviet republic on Afghanistan's northern border—in exchange for permission for the US military to use an Uzbekistan air base about 150 km from the Afghan border.

Secretary of State Colin Powell is leaving Sunday for Pakistan and India, to try to defuse those countries' escalating tensions over control of Kashmir and keep them from complicating the anti-terror campaign in neighboring Afghanistan.

At Camp David, Bush also worked with his national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, on preparations for his trip next week to China for the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation forum.

He will meet there with Russian President Vladimir Putin and other allies in his anti-terror coalition. **Reports from AFP and AP**

Another world-class act for Lea

(From page A1)

Drum Song," on Saturday.

Salonga, who won Broadway and West End acting awards for playing the original Kim in "Miss Saigon" in New York and London, performed to a full-house crowd at the Mark Taper Forum here.

"It was fun and exhausting," Salonga said after her performance. "It's harder than 'Miss Saigon' because I don't get this exhausted after the show when I was still doing 'Miss Saigon.'"

Salonga is paired for the first time onstage with a Filipino actor, Jose Llana, who plays her leading man. Llana appeared in such productions as "The King and I," "Rent" and "Martin Guerre."

The other Filipinos in the cast of the "Flower Drum Song" are Charlene Carabeo, Robert Pendilla, Blythe Matsui and Jennifer Paz.

Intense rehearsals

Salonga arrived here in July to start rehearsals for the musical production of the Center Theater Group (CTG). She is set to do eight performances a week, including Saturday and Sunday matinees.

The musical will run until Dec. 2, with tickets sold at \$50. Salonga said the musical is nearly sold out till December.

At the opening night, the crowd was composed largely of Americans, with a few Asians, including Filipinos and Chinese.

The production is the first major revival of the "Flower Drum Song" since 1958 when the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical made its debut on Broadway.

The classic has a new book by playwright David Henry Hwang, himself a Tony Award winner, with credits like "M. Butterfly" and "Aida."

"It's a completely new book," Salonga said. "It doesn't resemble the original Broadway and film versions, although it's set in the



LEA Salonga: Conquers musical lovers anew.

mid-20th century."

Salonga plays Mei-li, a young refugee from Communist China who struggles to hold on to traditional homeland beliefs when she lives in America.

Her character also falls in love. As in "Miss Saigon," Salonga figured in kissing scenes with her leading man in "Flower Drum Song."

"It's part of my job so that's not something to really fuss about," she said.

As Mei-Li, Salonga gets to sing "A Hundred Million Miracles" and "I'm Going To Like It

Here" from the original Broadway version, plus two new songs, "Love Look Away" and "The Next Time It Happens."

The musical has no scene-stealing props like a shiny Cadillac or a helicopter as in "Miss Saigon." But "Flower Drum Song" boasts of colorful and dazzling period costumes designed by Gregg Barnes.

"Lea makes us truly proud to be a Filipino," said journalist Ruben Nepales, who resides here.

Great performance

"She's as great as ever," said BMG Records Filipinas executive Narciso Chan, who flew in from Manila to watch Lea perform.

"I enjoyed it. It's humorous and entertaining. The entire production is great," said Flora Ramos, of Carson City, California.

"She (Lea) is remarkable," said a United Airlines employee, Rosemary Clubb, who watched Salonga for the first time.

Salonga's mother Ligaya and younger brother Gerard did not make it to the opening night. They are still in Manila.

"This is the first time that my musical opened and my mom was not around," Salonga said. "It's a little bit strange for me, but I hope she gets to see it before it ends its run."

After the show, a dinner-reception was held at the Otto's Grill Restaurant near the theater. It was attended by alumni of "Flower Drum Song" in Broadway on tour, the ballet and even the movie cast, including actress Nancy Kwan, who played the original Linda Low.

Salonga is based in New York and owns an apartment in Manhattan.

She said she was returning to Manila for the holidays.

Next year, Salonga is set to appear in the play, "Proof," to be mounted by Atlantis Productions in Manila.

She will also do a two-night concert with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra at the Philippine International Convention Center in February.

Chinoys ask GMA: Act on spate of kidnappings

(From page A1)

stability of President Macapagal's administration," Yuyitung told the Agence France Presse after a meeting of worried community leaders on Friday.

The latest abduction victim was the granddaughter of the designated ambassador to the United Nations, Alfonso Yuchengco.

In one of the worst incidents, kidnappers killed an ethnic Chinese businesswoman and her police bodyguard earlier this month after her family failed to hand over P10 million in ransom.

"Our lives are under threat ev-

eryday wherever we are. This insane and abnormal situation is worsening everyday. The kidnap syndicates have shown that they can operate openly without fear (of) police authorities and with appalling disregard for life and property," the statement said.

It urged the President to cleanse the ranks of the Philippine National Police (PNP) of scoundrels and to order immediate strikes against the kidnap gangs.

"We believe that the best way to fight the syndicates is to hit them even before they start working on their next victim. We cannot wait until another Filipino is in their hands

before we mobilize our forces to attempt a rescue," the statement read.

"We cannot wait until kidnapping has become a pervasive aspect of Philippine society before we use the full might of the State to crush these syndicates, especially those which have already been identified."

The group recommended the beefing up of anti-kidnapping groups in the military and police, and closer coordination among all intelligence agencies.

The statement was issued after a consultation meeting among members of the Chinese-Filipino community on Friday.

A source said some points raised

in the meeting were "too harsh" and were not incorporated in the statement.

One was the suggestion that all Chinese-Filipino businessmen close shop for one day in protest of the increasing number of kidnapping cases.

Another suggested a revolt, much like Edsa II, to overthrow the government if the kidnappings continued.

"But they didn't want to tell the President those things as they were too harsh. Most of the members of the Chinese-Filipino community are businessmen. If they say those things, the government may get back at them through taxes," the source said.

GMA foreign policy control leaves DFA in shambles

(From page A1)

its inputs to foreign policy were sidelined.

As a consequence of this disarray and leadership vacuum, reflected by the bumbling and incompetent foreign secretary, Vice President Teofisto Guingona, the center of gravity of foreign policy direction has shifted to the presidential palace. Malacañang is now relying mainly for support from the National Security Council and the Department of National Defense.

There is no question that the President is the fountainhead of foreign policy. But the most critical input for the formulation of foreign policy, providing direction and strategy, should come from the DFA.

The DFA is the premier Cabinet department and its secretary is the most senior member of the Cabinet. That's why he is seated next to the President in Cabinet meetings. Since Ms Macapagal took office, Guingona has merely been a figurehead secretary, partly because he is lost in the complex nuances of foreign policy and partly because the President believes she can pursue foreign policy initiatives and ap-

point ambassadors without taking advice from experts in the DFA.

This accounts for the impulsiveness and ad hoc nature of some of her key decisions on foreign relations and diplomatic appointments, mostly motivated by political compromises designed to strengthen her internal political position.

Guingona himself is only a part-time foreign secretary. He uses half of his time in the Office of the Vice President. He is caught between his role as a politician and as a foreign policy strategist.

Not consulted

Guingona and the DFA were not consulted in the President's decision to commit the Philippines to the international coalition's war on terrorism with her 14-pillar policy.

A highlight of the policy is giving access to US forces to Subic and Clark as refueling and transit platforms for troops and military equipment and supplies destined for Afghanistan.

Ms Macapagal's support for the coalition is her first most important foreign policy decision. Her decision is the strongest backing received by the coalition from any Southeast Asian country, and yet she seems to be guided mainly by her political instincts rather

than well-studied strategy and priorities.

It is futile to expect a critical contribution from the DFA because, as machinery for diplomatic initiatives, it is in tatters and is reduced to the role of being a dumping ground for the distribution of political rewards.

Breach of protocol

There are many symptoms of disarray. On Friday evening, at the reception celebrating Spain's National Day, the DFA did not send a single representative. The Spanish ambassador had to wait for nearly an hour for any DFA functionary to show up before beginning the ceremony. This is a particularly upsetting breach of protocol because of the historical bonds between the Philippines and Spain.

Guingona has no sense of priorities on what national day reception he should attend or ignore, and his attendance in important receptions is idiosyncratic. He did not attend the German National Day of unification this month, but he showed up at Venezuela's National Day. He did not attend the national day receptions of the People's Republic of China and Russia—clearly two important world powers.

At a briefing in the DFA for Ms

Macapagal in preparation for her visit to the United States in November, Guingona, whose presence should be obligatory, was absent. During the preparation of the President's State of the Nation Address (Sona) in July, departments were asked to supply inputs. The DFA career officials prepared papers for inclusion in the speech. Guingona's cordon sanitaire quarantined the papers. During the Cabinet meeting on the Sona, Guingona did not put forward any contribution, let alone a vision or strategy in foreign policy. This is why foreign policy was hardly mentioned in the President's first Sona.

Outsiders

When he took office at the DFA, Guingona brought along outsiders now forming his cordon sanitaire. They are Victor Luna, who holds the position of consultant; Merlin Magallona, former law dean at the University of the Philippines; and Agnes Huidonhua, who holds the appointment of executive assistant.

A position was created for Magallona, that of legal assistant for migrant workers, allowing him to act as de facto undersecretary, although there are already three undersecretaries, all

from the career service.

The three act as a wall between Guingona and the career service, with which the secretary has had an antagonistic relationship since he took office. Huidonhua is known to have canceled capriciously at the last minute Guingona's appointments with ambassadors who had been cooling their heels in the reception room. Ambassadors are upset at these sudden cancellations. The perception in the DFA is that Guingona gives preference to receiving political callers than diplomatic visitors.

One of the reasons Guingona was not consulted on the policy backing the coalition's war on terrorists is his known aversion to the idea of giving access to US forces and supplies to the former US bases, given his no vote to the Visiting Forces Agreement.

The President cracked the whip on this policy, but this did not prevent Magallona, a nationalist sharing Guingona's point of view, from issuing a statement criticizing the President's decision. In the diplomacy of mature and older countries, only one speaks officially for foreign policy, the President or the foreign minister, who should reflect the President's position. Officials who can't agree with policy enunciated

by the President should quit.

Intuition

The disarray in the DFA and the political priorities of its leadership reflect those of the President and her lack of overarching strategic outlook in foreign policy. Even though her decision to back the coalition's war on terrorism is correct, the decision nonetheless is ad hoc and is mainly based on intuition.

In a foreign policy that responds to international crisis, such decisions could have benefited from a thorough study by experts and professionals, giving policy more nuance and sophistication.

This ad hoc and parochially driven decision-making finds its most glaring expression in her appointments of political ambassadors. The most controversial and embarrassing of these is the nomination of Rufus Rodriguez as ambassador to Germany.

It should be noted that 25 of the 61 available ambassadorial posts are awarded to political appointees. Most of them are to be posted to First World countries—clearly not hardship posts. They know how to choose the prize plums in the foreign service. No wonder the direction of foreign policy and capacity of the DFA to back ad hoc policies are in shambles.

Shabu worth P1B seized in Quezon province

(From page A1)

The haul was bigger than the 365 kilos of shabu seized during a foiled smuggling attempt in Barangay Bignay II, Sariaya, also in Quezon, in August last year.

Earlier this year, police raided what was believed to be the biggest shabu laboratory in the country in Lipa City in Batangas. The lab had a 1,000-kilo production capacity.

Intel reports

On Oct. 12, both the police and the NBI received intelligence reports about an alleged large shipment of shabu in Quezon's coastal town of Infanta in the northern part of the province, Rosales said.

As early as Oct. 3, Rosales said, the Quezon police had already received similar reports from their informers.

"We knew that we were on to a big catch. We could not afford to lose this one," Supt. Rueben Sindac, Quezon police intelligence and investigation section chief, told the INQUIRER.

Rosales explained Saturday's joint operation:

Members of the police mobile group led by Chief Insp. Elmer Escosia acted as "spotters." Uniformed men set up a police checkpoint in Barangay Kiloloron, Real, where the 414th provincial mobile group is based.

Around 4:35 p.m., a Besta van with body markings that read "AMBULANCE Municipality of Panukulan" and license plate No. SFK 372, followed by a dark-green Starex van with the "Mayor" commemorative plate in front and a rear license plate No. RWT-888, passed by the checkpoint but ignored the officers manning it.

The teams gave chase and caught up with the suspects on the national highway in Real.

Upon inspection, the lawmen saw several transparent packages of white crystalline substance inside the ambulance. An NBI forensic chemist confirmed that the substance was shabu.

Rosales said the drug shipment was unloaded off Panukulan and transported to Infanta for a yet unknown destination until the vehicles were intercepted.

Watch list

Military and police officials said Mitra had long been in their watch list of suspects involved in illegal drug operations.

Rep. Ralph Nantes (Quezon, first district) said in a phone interview that sometime last week, several members of the Kabalikot radio communication group in northern Quezon reported the presence of an unfamiliar ship in the Lamun Bay area off Panukulan Island.

"I told them to report the matter to the police authorities. I don't know if the seized shabu was unloaded from that ship," he said.

Nantes commended the arresting teams and the civilians who tipped off the police.

Troops rescue 4...

(From page A1)

Among those still being held captive were Martin and Gracia Burnham, an American missionary couple. The remains of another American, Guillermo Sobero, of California were found last week.

"We'll make sure that we get all the hostages, including the American couple," Cimatu told the INQUIRER.

The other captives were Maria Fe Rosadeno and Angie Monte Alegre, who were seized during the Abu Sayyaf raid on Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan; Reina Malonzo, Sheila Tabunayag and Ediborah Yap, who were taken in Lamitan; and Joel Abellon, Abdulpatta Mohammad and Marlon Dagayanon, all Golden Harvest workers.

A new hostage, 16-year-old Fernando Romeo, was abducted on Saturday morning in Sitio Tumalinting in Barangay Atong-Atong in Lantawan.

Burnham III

Guillo said he and the other hostages were walking in the dark with the group led by Isnilon Hapilon, Aldam Tilao alias Abu Sabaya and Hamsiraji Sali alias Jose Ramirez, when the encounter occurred.

The Filipino hostages were allowed to mingle with the American couple, he said.

"Pero si Martin (Burnham) parating nakatali (But Martin was always tied up). Every night, siya yung (he is) heavily guarded," Guillo added. He said Gracia was very ill, while the other hostages were already weak.

"Tatlong araw na kaming walang kain-kain (We had not eaten for three days)," he said.

\$2-million ransom

Cimatu said the rescued hostages claimed that the bandits were waiting for the delivery of a \$2-million (P103.6 million) ransom for all the hostages.

He refused to identify the person or group who promised the alleged ransom payment.

"They (bandits) were waiting for the ransom money and they were desperate already. They are now very hard-up and frustrated," Cimatu said.

Guillo confirmed the promised ransom amount.

"Naririnig ko parati nilang pinag-uusapan yan tungkol sa (I always heard them talking about the) \$2 million. Kapalit daw yun sa kulayana naming lahat, pero di ko alam kung saan manggagaling ang pera (That is allegedly in exchange for our freedom. But we don't know where the money would be coming from)."

Yemenis

The rescued hostages also said two Yemenis joined the bandits in September.

An Agence France Presse report

"It seems that the peace covenant that we recently signed in General Nakar with top military and police officials is now beginning to show proof that with the active cooperation of the people and the government, peace and order has a chance to prevail over criminal activities," he said.

Col. Francis Lanuza, intelligence chief of the Southern Luzon Command, said the civilians "helped a lot in the intelligence buildup."

Close surveillance

Gov. Wilfredo Enverga said he had already instructed the police to put all coastal areas of the province under close surveillance, "be it in Tayabas Bay or Lamun Bay."

Maj. Gerard Velez, Solcom spokesperson, said the military provided "augmentation support" during and after the shabu bust.

"The seized drug was worth almost a billion pesos. Any drug syndicate worth its salt could initiate moves to recover the contraband," he said.

He said that the Air Force unit based in Camp Nakar transported the shabu from Real to Camp Crame.

The Naval Intelligence and Security Group and Special Warfare Action Group from the Philippine Navy, the Quezon drug enforcement unit, the PNP Maritime group, the 1st Infantry Battalion and the 8th Scout Ranger Company of the Philippine Army provided support during the operation.

A separate Navy report said the initial plan was to intercept the drugs while at sea between Polilio Island and Infanta, using gunboats. But the plan was changed and the drugs were seized on land, it said.

PNP chief Mendoza said the seizure was a major blow for narcotics traders in the country.

"It is a significant reduction in supply," he said. "We hope this will discourage importers from further bringing in drugs."

Druggie nation

At the House of Representatives, Rep. Gilbert Remulla filed House Bill 806, which seeks to reduce the quantity of drugs required for imposing penalties.

Remulla said possession of at least five grams of shabu, and not the current 200 grams, should be made a non-bailable offense.

He cited a report submitted by the National Drug Law Enforcement and Coordinating Center to the House committee on dangerous drugs which revealed that "there are an estimated 3.8 million Filipinos who peddle drugs."

The illegal drug users numbered as many as 9.3 million, the report said.

"With this kind of statistic, the Philippines is well on its way of becoming a nation of drug addicts and pushers," Remulla said.

The bill has already been approved at the committee level, he added. *With reports from Carlito Pablo and Rocky Nazareno*

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Slashers win; Blades ahead

LIPA CITY—The Negros Slashers started hot and never wavered to register a 127-106 rout of the Socsargen-Taguig Marlins yesterday in the MBA Second Phase at the La Salle Lipa Centrum.

Forcing the Marlins to numerous turnovers and converting it to fastbreak points, the Slashers took a 31-11 first quarter spread that proved to be unassailable.

Rather than relax, the Slashers continued to pepper the Marlins with outside hits and pulled away farther at 95-62 on a third quarter-ending triple by Dennis Madrid.

Negros posted its fifth win against one loss, pulling away from its pursuers in the Southern Conference.

The defeat pulled down Socsargen-Taguig to 1-7, putting doubts on its capability to book a seat in the semifinals.

LBC Batangas worked its way up from a 19-point deficit to beat Cebuana Lhuillier, 102-95, and regain top spot in the Northern Conference at 7-1. Cebuana Lhuillier fell to 3-5.

Scores:

NEGROS 127—Bat-og 23, White 23, Cardel 22, Ferriols 17, Tierra 11, Madrid 10, Huganatan 8, Ignacio 4, Huelar 3, Benedicto 3, Aldeguer 2, Dela Rosa 0.
SOCARGEN-TAGUIG 106—Echavez 22, Alvarez 21, Santos 14, Flores 11, Tizon 8, Rodriguez 8, Co 8, Reyes 5, Teng 4, Salvador 4, Manalac 0.
Quarters: 31-21, 54-41, 95-62, 127-106.

Senior Care golf

THE HIGHLY successful Senior Care Program of the Federation of Golf Clubs Philippines Inc. spins off to a major competition with the staging of the inaugural Senior Care Fellowship Golf Classic on Nov. 5 at the Sta. Elena Golf Club course.

Rey Adriano, president of the Puerto Azul Golf and Country Club and chair of the tournament committee, is working hand in hand with newly elected FGCP president Ogie Manalo and lawyer Joe B. Abejo, chair of the FGCP senior care program in the organization of the 18-hole event.

Early sponsors include Philippine Airlines, Honda Phils., former Cong. Gualberto Duavit of Group Mgmt. and Dev't. Group, 7107 Island Travel, Citra Tollways, Delta Motors, Weinstein Pianos, GG&A Club Shares, among others.

McCarron up by 3

LAS VEGAS—Scott McCarron shot a 9-under 63 in ideal playing conditions to take a three-shot lead over Tom Lehman going into the final round of the Invenys Classic at Las Vegas.

McCarron, seeking his second win of the year, made nine birdies Saturday and an equal number of pars to overtake Lehman and third-round leader Craig Parry. AP

MITRA CUP 2

'Ala eh, it's Batangas Entry'



GOLDEN Ballet (third from right) trails Security Risk in the early going.

ROMY HOMILLADA

Eagle Ridge cops 2 titles

THE ORCHARD "D" team made mincemeat of its Division I rivals at its home course but Eagle Ridge made its big move by bagging the two other titles disputed in the second leg of the Sta. Lucia Tour 2001 played over the weekend.

Dan Salvador III got his revenge by taking the Class A plum he lost via a countback in the first leg, firing 49 and 48 points to lead his team to an overwhelming 36-point win over another Orchard squad.

Salvador's brother Paul was poised to challenge Dan for the top plum after scoring a medal round of one-over 73 equivalent to 53 points in the first round that triggered the breakthrough.

Paul, however, got disqualified by Tour rulesman

Buddy Resurreccion for using an already-deformed putter on the second day and put to waste his 47 that could have easily made him the overall champ. Teammates Jojo Castaneda (48) and Rudel Panganiban (40) made up for his absence.

The Sta. Lucia Tour is a series among clubs operating under the banner of the real estate giant. The co-sponsors are Golfforce, Inc., Gainers Marketing, Atlanta Industries, Kubota Agro-Ind. Machinery Phils., Unirock, Readycon, Club Car, Omega, Yamaha/Kart Plaza, Philippine Airlines, Kodak Digital Camera, Isuzu Fuego-Alabang, Nellix, Anako and Transnational Diversified Group. Official hotels are Hyatt, Cebu Plaza and Marco Polo-Davao.

F. Hills gains Fed League finals

FOREST Hills waylaid a visiting Alabang side that wasn't too familiar with the tough terrain and the other rigors of the Antipolo course to barge into the finals of the Federation League for the first time in four years.

The Forest Hills squad, continuing a victory mission made after the sudden death of its top gun Alfie Almario two weeks ago, swept all four matches for a 2-1 conquest of Alabang in the home-and-away semifinal duel.

Forest Hills will meet the winner of the Wack Wack-Southwoods semifinal which was to be completed yesterday. Wack Wack, the defending champion, shocked host Southwoods, 3-1, on Saturday and needed only a draw yesterday to advance to the championship match for the second straight year.

The tandems of Larry Patnagon-Vic Cordero and Florene delos Santos-Bobby Ysip all but wrapped up the win for Forest Hills when they made shortwork of their scramble and aggregate rivals.

BY EDWIN VILLANUEVA

BATANGAS Entry supplied the fitting finale to the Philtobo-Mitra Cup 2 Championships yesterday by capturing the Three-Year-Old Colts race in wire-to-wire style at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

A far, far second choice in the betting, Batangas Entry simply overwhelmed the field with his blinding speed from the gates to win the race which could also prove to be Silver Story's last.

The 2001 Triple Crown champion who lured more than P1 million in sales was never a factor, coming out last and eventually ending at the same spot. He was later given an indefinite suspension for limping in the foreleg after the race. "I'd like to give credit to my Tatay for preparing Batangas Entry for this race. Ang ganda ng paghahanda nya," said jubilant owner and PBA star Paolo Mendoza of the Sta. Lucia Realty.

"Tatay" to Paolo is of course sportsman-businessman Rudy Mendoza who conditioned Batangas Entry with the able assistance of Nick Atienza.

As instructed, star jockey Pat Dilema sent Batangas Entry in front when the gates opened, with El Duque providing early challenge.

Silver Story had a languid start as he trailed the field while Batangas Entry kept El Duque at bay.

As Batangas Entry started to draw clear from El Duque at the far turn, Silver Story mounted a rally but he could not gain any further despite heavy punishment from Jonathan Hernandez.

Batangas Entry crossed the wire five lengths clear of El Duque, prompting club announcer J. R. Cabansag to holler "Ala eh, it's Batangas Entry" to the delight of roaring fans.

Speed Master checked in third, while Dixie Dancer arrived fourth.

Also sharing the day's spotlight were Ilocandia Slew, Golden Ballet and Mighty Strong.

Ilocandia Slew of Myther Bunag and Tony Boy Eleazar won the Three-Year-Old Fillies, Golden Ballet of Jun Almada topped the Juvenile Fillies and Mighty Strong of Albert Yam ruled the Juvenile Colts.

Winners of the four Mitra Cup 2 championships received P300,000 each.

"We'd like to thank the fans and all those who supported us. The success of the second Philtobo-Mitra Cup festival is for all the *bayang kareristas*," said Philtobo president Bienvenido "Nonoy" Niles Jr.

Yankees stay alive

OAKLAND, California—Jorge Posada slammed a fifth-inning home run and made a crucial out with some help from Derek Jeter to keep the three-time defending champion New York Yankees in title contention.

The Yankees edged Oakland 1-0 here Saturday to snap an eight-game losing streak to the A's and avert being swept out of the American League division series.

New York must still win here Sunday and again Monday in Yankee Stadium to become the first team to advance in a best-of-five series after dropping the first two games at home.

The A's-Yankees winner will face the Seattle-Cleveland winner in the league final for a berth in the World Series.

After winning a record-tying 116

games this season, the Seattle Mariners are on the verge of going out in the first round of the playoffs.

Cleveland pounded the hapless Mariners 17-2 Saturday to seize a 2-1 lead in their division series. The Indians can reach the league final by winning here Sunday or Monday in Seattle if necessary.

In the National League, St. Louis shook off a rain delay of three hours and 36 minutes to defeated Arizona 4-1 and level their series at 2-2. Fernando Vina's two-run homer in the third inning helped force a deciding fifth game Sunday at Phoenix.

Cleveland's 21-year-old rookie C.C. Sabathia pitched six solid innings, allowing six hits and five walks but obtaining key outs when needed to silence the winningest team in the history of the sport. APF

Table tennis tourney set



BINAY

PHILIPPINE Tennis Development Union (PTIDU) President Jeomar Erwin "Junjun" S. Binay Jr. yesterday announced the holding of the second series of the National Quarterly Age Group Championship on Oct. 20-21 at the Olympia Sports Complex in Makati.

About 500 teams from all over the country are taking part in the event.

The table tennis tourney will have 16 events, ranging from boys and girls singles aged 10 years old to men's singles

with ages over 60. Each of the 16 events and categories will have four winners.

A total of P80,000 in cash prizes will be awarded to winners of this competition. Entry forms may be obtained and submitted to the PTIDU office 3rd Floor Makati Youth Center Bldg. located in 1150 JP Rizal St., Guadalupe Viejo, Makati.

Deadline for the submission of entries is today. For more information, call 895-8247 or 895-8248 loc. 21.

Boracay scuba diving Oct. 27-29

THE 1ST Boracay Fish ID Scuba Diving Adventure will be held at Lorenzo Resort on Oct. 27 to 29. Entry fee is P8,535. Sponsors of the event are New Wave Divers, Air Philippines and 99.5 RT.

Highlights of the meet will be featured in "Unlim-

ited Diving" aired over NBN Channel 4 on Mondays, 10:30-11 p.m. Non-divers can join and avail of introductory dive. For inquiries and reservations call (632) 913-8605, fax (632) 912-0873 and 0917-9368895 or e-mail at unlimiteddiving@yahoo.com



STA. LUCIA RACE

Jockey L. I. Santos (fifth from left) and owner Joseph Dyhengco display the award of Lyonnais, winner of the recent Sta. Lucia Realty Grand Futurity Stakes at the Santa Ana Park. Also shown (from left) are Royale Homes Marketing Corp. EVP for sales and marketing Carmina Sotto, EVP-finance Mayleen Bernardino, president Matilde Robles, actress Rachelle Lobangco; Presidential son Mikey Arroyo and Sta. Lucia Realty President Exequiel Robles. The event also launched the Saddle and Clubs Leisure Park. For details, call RHMC at 726-4288 and 723-4014.

LGBA derbies on tap

THE newly-organized Luzon Gamefowl Breeders Association (LGBA), an organization composed of 48 bigtime breeders in Luzon, will present three 6-stag derbies at Mandaluyong Coliseum for the whole month of November.

The LGBA derbies will be held on Nov. 6 and 8, Nov. 13 and 15 and Nov. 20 and 22. These derbies will be the basis in selecting the LGBA Breeder of the Year 2001.

"The LGBA executive committee has chosen the Mandaluyong Coliseum as its official venue for forthcoming derbies since all of our members believe that a fairness and sportsmanship is top priority at Mandaluyong Coliseum," LGBA interim president Boy Diaz said.

The signing of contract between LGBA and OPMI (operator of Mandaluyong Coliseum) was held last Oct. 5 at the Sulo Hotel in Quezon City. Representing the LGBA were Diaz, engineer Jun Sevilla and Mr. Hortillo while OPMI was represented by its president Vic Yu and cockpit manager Rey Lee.

A cocktail party will be held on Nov. 5 (coinciding with the submission of weights of first derby) at Mandaluyong Coliseum.

7-stag tilt up

TODAY is the submission of all official entries to the 6th Ucap/Altuz Sir Vincent 7-Stag Derby at the Mandaluyong Coliseum. Entries will be accepted from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The event, hosted by lawyer Ram Lopez and businessman-sportsman Vic Yu and sponsored by Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo, is set for Tuesday and Thursday (Oct. 16 and 18). Derby starts at 6 p.m. since more than 60 fights are on tap.

For other inquiries, please contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341.

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C200 K Estate Avantgarde	3,350,000.00	1,675,000.00	41,425.00
C200 K Estate Elegance	3,250,000.00	1,625,000.00	40,023.00
A160 LW Elegance	P 1,750,000.00	P 875,000.00	P 18,957.00
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'Rusty' Tyson prevails

COPENHAGEN, Denmark—Mike Tyson's seven-round TKO Saturday over Brian Nielsen was his longest fight in five years, a workout the "rusty" Tyson said he needed. But don't look for a title fight right away. The former undisputed heavy-weight champion admitted that's two bouts away. Tyson bloodied the Dane in the second round and knocked him down in the third. But Nielsen fought gamely until the referee finally ended the fight because his swollen left eye left him sitting on the stool when the seventh was to start.

AP

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Red Bull subdues Shell

GAMES WEDNESDAY (PhilSports)
5:05 p.m.—Purefoods vs Alaska
7:10 p.m.—Pop Cola vs Ginebra

BY JUNE NAVARRO

ANTIPOLO CITY—Junthly Valenzuela pumped life into Red Bull's wobbly campaign as the Thunder scrambled past the Shell Turbo Chargers, 68-62, last night in the PBA Governors Cup at the Ynares Center here.

Coming up with his finest performance in this conference yet, the 6-foot-2

Valenzuela canned 11 of his 17 points in the final period as he towed the sluggish Thunder to their third victory after seven outings in a tie with Barangay Ginebra.

Valenzuela's slithering undergoal stab with less than two minutes left finished off the Turbo Chargers, who got awesome numbers from Askia Jones but not from their locals.

Their three-game winning streak snapped, the Turbo Chargers absorbed their third setback in seven games but remained at solo third.

"We were really struggling. But this is a

good way to come out of a slump," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao, whose Thunder broke out of a two-game rut.

Danny Idefonso's put back with 43 ticks left carried San Miguel Beer to an 85-79 victory over Tanduay in the second game. San Miguel and Pop Cola now share fourth place at 4-4, while Tanduay dropped to 2-6.

Scores:
RED BULL 68—Valenzuela 17, Tull 15, Miller 9, Harp 8, Raymundo 7, Pennisi 5, Mendoza 5, Torion 2, Agustin 0, Briones 0, Tanpua 0.
SHELL 62—Jones 36, Walwright 7, Singson 7, Hrabak 6, Del Rosario 4, Jackson 2, Marzan 0, Tolan 0, Esplana 0, Opla Cruz 0.
Quarters: 17-20, 35-30, 44-48, 68-62

Capriati new No.1

FILDERSTADT, Germany—Capping a remarkable comeback in a career that began with so much promise and then slid into a seemingly irreversible decline, Jennifer Capriati is the new No. 1 in women's tennis.

Capriati was assured of taking over the top spot for the first time when Martina Hingis sprained her right ankle and had to abandon the semifinal match against Lindsay Davenport at the Porsche Grand Prix on Saturday.

"I am speechless," Capriati said. "I'm just very, very happy, more than anything."

AP

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Officials stepped in for release of 12 Ecstasy suspects, says cop



BY ALCUIN PAPA

A HIGH-RANKING Malacañang official, an official of the Philippine National Police and another official of the National Bureau of Investigation allegedly interceded for the release of 12 of 13 suspected drug users arrested on Friday in Quezon City for possession of Ecstasy pills.

The 12 alleged users of the designer drug would be released today pending "further investigation" after the three officials negotiated for their freedom, according to a member of the team from National Capital Region Police Office that made the arrest.

The source, who refused to be identified, said the Malacañang official with Cabinet rank actively interceded for the release of Jovy Crispal, 24; Jacqueline Ulnagan, 21; Anton Garcia, 21;

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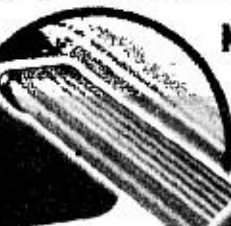
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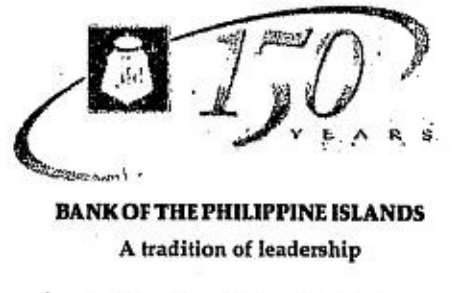
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Probers believe Caloocan fire was intentional

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

FIRE investigators are zeroing in on the possibility that the public market in Caloocan City was deliberately burned Saturday over a long-running rift between vendors and the city government.

Insp. Agapito Nacario, Caloocan fire chief, yesterday said he and his men were waiting for at least three witnesses who earlier told them the fire was a case of arson.

"But their testimonies don't carry much weight since we believe the market was intentionally burned," Nacario told the INQUIRER.

Nacario said Pablo Mendoza, from whose stall the fire at the Poblacion market reportedly started, and a security guard yesterday went to the fire department saying a defective electric fan could have triggered the fire.

Vendors yesterday supported Nacario's theory and said the market on 10th Avenue could have been deliberately set on fire to pave the way for the construction of the mul-

timillion-peso commercial complex on its site.

The complex is a key project of the city government, along with a modern hospital and a multi-level parking and commercial center in front of city hall.

Several vendors had opposed the conversion of the Poblacion market into a modern commercial complex since they would be displaced.

Susan de Leon, spokesperson of Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo, yesterday hinted that the disgruntled vendors themselves could have started to fire if only to derail the project.

"Of course when people are led to believe that the market was intentionally burned, the city government would be the usual suspect," she said.

The local government delayed the implementation of the project to consult vendors, but some bull-headed storeowners have been rejecting a compromise, she said.

Despite the fire, the construction of the commercial complex would proceed next month, she said.

Did gov't give this fiberglass firm a license to kill?

IT has poisoned the air, sending suffering residents, mostly children, to hospitals and clinics with acute respiratory ailments. The most common complaints were about itch and soreness of throat, fever and, at times, vomiting.

These were very clear signs of poisoning.

It would therefore be too light if they charge the owners of Anesco Fiberglass Products Corp. in Mandaluyong City with merely polluting its immediate environment.

For one, the Department of Energy and Natural Resources, sending investigators following a protest from affected residents, has discovered that the firm lacked one major requirement: a permit to operate.

Despite that criminal act, the firm was allowed to operate with impunity. And all the residents could do—the foul factory is located in a thickly populated area in Barangay Saniga—was cover their mouths and noses with handkerchiefs to minimize inhalation of the noxious fumes.

Of course, this feeble defense hardly helps. The poisoning process comes mid-morning and in the most unlikely hours, between midnight and daybreak, when people are fast asleep.

Dr. Luciana Bargo, whose residence and clinic is located right across the main street where the fiberglass factory sits, has reported

an alarming increase in the number of patients with respiratory ailments and severe breathing problems. The incidence had more than tripled as of last weekend.

Dr. Bargo blames the outbreak to a single culprit: the Anesco Fiberglass Products Corp. at the corner of G. Aglipay and Iliano Cruz streets.

Dr. Bargo says she herself has become a victim of the poisoned air.

Evelyn Ruiz, Dr. Bargo's neighbor, swears she may be able to survive all the foulness but she now fears for her mother, Aling Elena.

In less than a month, the old lady had to be rushed to the hospital in serious condition at least three times.

Evelyn, a lead figure in the neighborhood beautification campaign, says she fears that one day her mother, an asthmatic, would just fall dead, definitely a victim of air poisoning.

Anyway, feeling desperate, the affected residents, who said they could not get any immediate help, approached the Inquirer last month.

The contacted Inquirer representative wasted no time. He composed with the help of residents a protest letter addressed to the DENR. The letter was passed around. A three-page sheet was filled with the names, addresses and signatures of the affected residents in less than two hours.

The letter of complaint, dated Sept. 6, 2001, was sent to office of

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad



DENR Secretary Heherson Alvarez.

Actually, the affected residents had started to lose hope. But, finally, early this month, the DENR wrote Dr. Bargo to take cognizance of their perilous plight in the neighborhood.

Then, upon the invitation of involved officials, Dr. Vargo, Ms Ruiz, accompanied by Barangay Vergara Chair Lamberto "Entoy" Cruz, reported to the Environmental Management Bureau on Congressional Avenue in Quezon City on Oct. 10.

This meant it took more than a month before official action was taken on their complaints, but the residents did not seem to mind.

Owners or representatives of the offending Anesco fiberglass firm were likewise summoned. They did not show up.

As it would turn out, the DENR had already made an earlier on-the-spot inquiry. Regional officials of the environmental agency discovered the "emission of distinct odor of chemicals used for fiberglass fabrication."

This was clearly noted in an investigation report, a copy of which was provided leaders of the protesting Mandaluyong residents.

By the way, it was discovered that

'I had nothing to do with the demolition'

NAVOTAS Mayor Tobias Tiangco yesterday denied involvement in the demolition of shanties in his town that left hundreds of residents homeless last Friday.

In a letter to the INQUIRER, Tiangco said he had nothing to do with the demolition which was part of the P3.5-billion flood-control project of the Department of Public Works and Highways for northern Manila.

"The local government of Navotas had nothing to do with the re-clearing," Tiangco said in his letter, "so why... blame (me)?"

Residents led by the Kilusang Maralita Para Sa Kaunlarang Panlipunan claimed that the municipal government authorized the demolition of about 45 shanties on C-3 Road despite an agreement with Tiangco.

Chito Amomas, vice chair of the Kilusang, had claimed that the demolition was part of a road-widening project in Manila and Navotas.

Tiangco blamed the residents for

the demolition, saying they came back even after the area had been "cleared."

In 1998, the riverbank along C-3 Road was cleared of squatter shanties to pave the way for the construction of flood-control dikes, the mayor said in his letter.

He said the affected residents were given relocation sites.

The following year, the same area was again cleared of squatters, who he said kept coming back. Those affected by last week's demolition were allegedly those who refused to settle in the relocation sites.

But residents had said that neither the national nor the municipal government bothered to provide them with decent relocation sites.

The INQUIRER tried to get Tiangco's side last Friday through his cellular phone and office numbers.

Tiangco said in his letter that he was in his office that day.

Christian V. Esguerra

Heckler stabbed dead

TAUNTS about his disability yesterday drove a man to stab his tormenter with a pointed steel cane in Manila, police said.

Agripino "Boy Paralyze" Salac, 50, allegedly killed stevedore Romeo Costelo, 31, in Parola Compound, Tondo, SPO1 Virgo Villareal said.

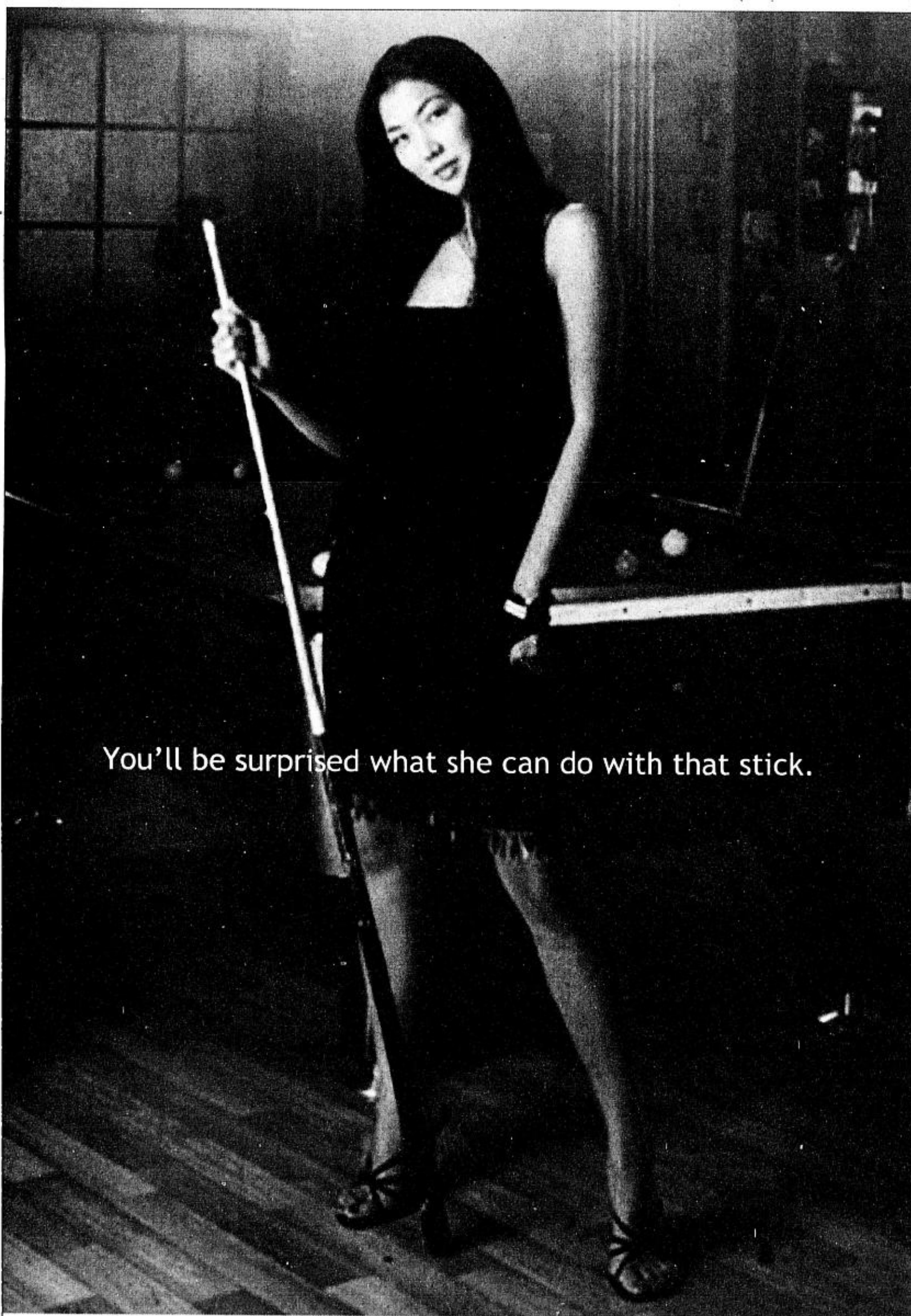
Costelo and his relatives were on

their way home from a birthday party when, about 1 a.m. yesterday, they chanced upon Salac, who was standing in front of his house with the steel cane.

Costelo and Salac argued, until Salac stabbed Costelo in the chest with his cane, police said.

Salac escaped.

Christian V. Esguerra



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'Justice for Bubbles'

BY AGNES DONATO

"JUSTICE for Bubbles."

This was the message brought by the relatives and neighbors of the 10-year-old rape victim in Marikina City whom they buried yesterday.

The burial of Ma. Cristina Suyo was also attended by the families of other victims of heinous crimes.

Faustino Federico, father of rape victim Roselyn Federico, led other members of the Volunteers against Crime and Corruption in expressing their sympathy for the family of Ma. Cristina or Bubbles.

"We are open to anyone who wants to help us in this fight," said Benjamin Suyo, the 55-year-old father of the latest victim, shortly after the girl's burial at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina.

Suyo vowed he would not stop until he has won justice for his daughter, no matter how long it took.

"I don't want my daughter's case to be just another statistic in crimes that haven't been resolved," he said. "My family and I will wage this fight this until we see justice."

Beside him were his other children, Catherine, 18; Mark Joseph, 16; and June Philip, 13.

The nine-year-old rape-slay case

of Federico is still being heard in a Pasig City trial court.

But Suyo, who earlier asked for "a slow, painful death" for his daughter's assailants, said that no matter how many times the suspects were put to death, it would never be enough punishment for what they did to his daughter.

"As a father, I tried to protect Bubbles, along with her three siblings, from any harm," he said as he tried to hold back tears.

Bubbles was raped and killed before her body was stuffed into a black trash bag and dumped in an open canal near her house in Barangay Marikina Heights.

The girl had been stabbed 17 times. Autopsy also indicated sexual abuse, police said.

In his counter affidavit, principal suspect Melvin Arazola took sole responsibility for the rape slay. He earlier implicated seven other men in the crime.

But Suyo insisted that the brutal killing of his daughter "could not have been done by just one man."

Second assistant prosecutor Nestor Gapuzan on Tuesday will inspect the Arazola residence in Marikina Heights, where the crime allegedly took place.

Bacoar wants 90-day use of old dumpsite

RESIDENTS of Bacoar, Cavite will petition government offices to allow them to temporarily use at least two hectares of a previously used dumpsite in their town while they are awaiting the construction of a new garbage facility in another area within 90 days.

The petition is being passed around the town's 73 barangays for signatures, local leaders said.

Bacoar Mayor Jessie P. Castillo said the previous dumpsite in Villa Esperanza in Barangay Molino III was rehabilitated and closed way ahead of the 2003 deadline set by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The new, five-hectare facility being developed in Barangay Malipay may be available in 90 days barring inclement weather, according to Castillo.

"My hands are tied," he said. "We cannot collect the garbage because I don't have a place to dump it in now. We closed the dumpsite in Villa Esperanza as we had promised my constituents, thinking we could be ready with a new one. But legal problems kept setting us back."

Officials ...

(From page A25)

Analisa San Juan, 27; Aljor Castro, 43; Joseph Vernie Ducat, brother of Marvin; Virgilio Rivas, 40; Oliver Villar, 29; Mel Santos, 27; Stewart MacDonald, 27; British national Jayson Johnson Jeffrey, 34; and Philip Glass, 34, said to be an overstaying American.

The two officials from the NBI and the PNP only called up the NCRPO to inquire about the case and the status of the suspects, the source said.

Only Marvin Ducat, of La Vista Subdivision, Quezon City, would not be released since his arrest was based on a warrant issued by Executive Judge Monina Zenarosa of the National Capital Judicial Region Branch 76, the source said.

The release of the 12 was based on an order issued by Quezon City assistant prosecutor Leo Macedes.

Members of the NCRPO Regional Intelligence and Special Operations Office (RISO) led by Chief Inspectors Napoleon Villegas and Arnold Aguilar arrested the suspects during a raid on Ducat's house.

Police said they also found during the raid a .45 automatic pistol, 39 Ecstasy pills and about P77,000 in cash. A pill of Ecstasy has a street value of between P700 and P1,500, police said.

With the arrest, police said they had broken the back of a drug syndicate selling Ecstasy and other designer drugs to rich clients.



CASTILLO

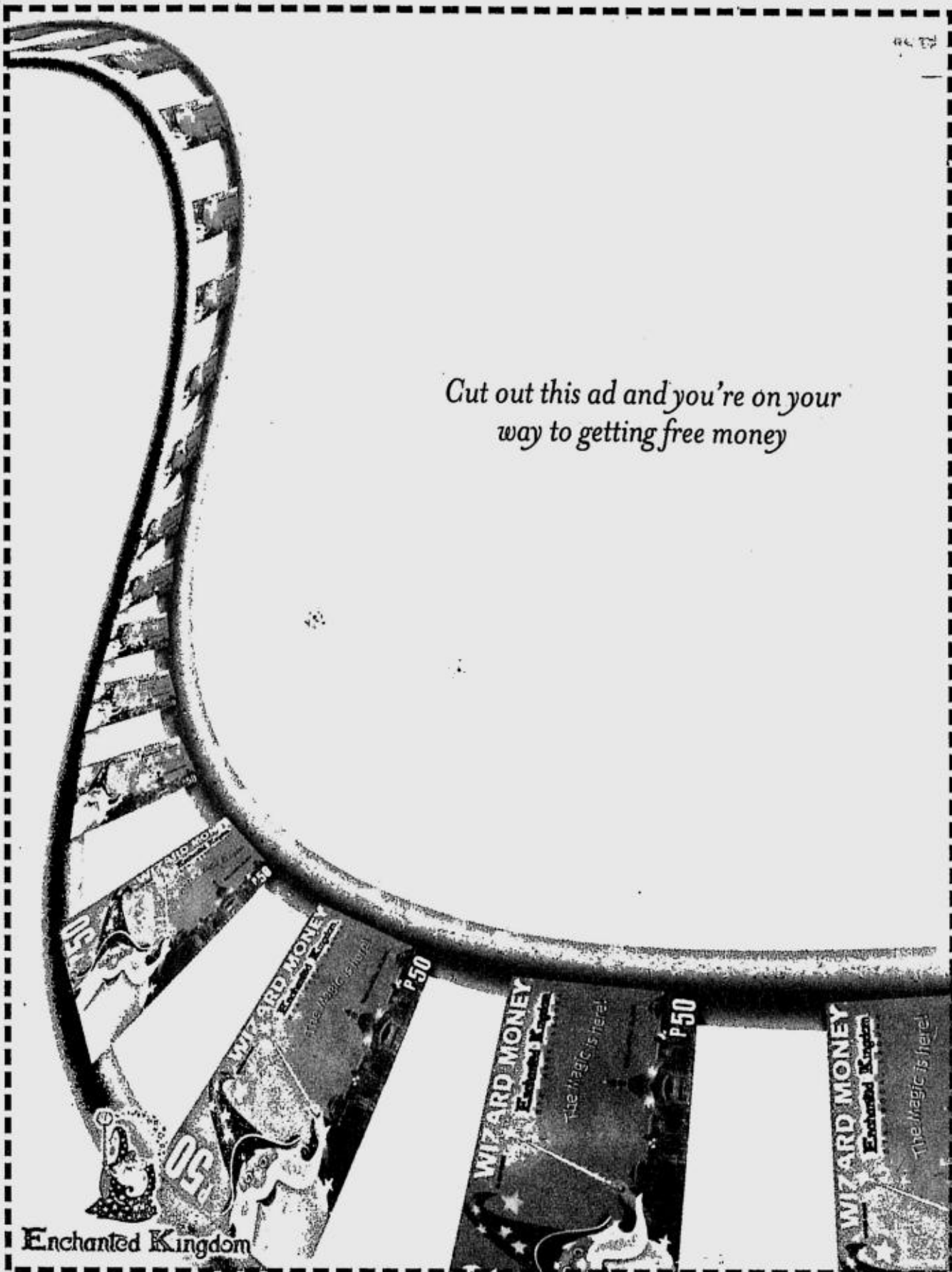
The residents took it upon themselves to petition the DENR, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Ombudsman and the Sandiganbayan to allow them to use again the garbage site in Villa Esperanza for at least 90 days even without the required environmental permit.

"I cannot think of any dumpsite in Metro Manila or in neighboring towns and cities operating with an environmental compliance certificate from the Environmental Management Bureau of the DENR," Castillo said.

He said he only inherited the Villa Esperanza dumpsite from his two predecessors, but he nonetheless upgraded it to a controlled facility.

He explained that the new dumpsite being developed in Barangay Malipay is

part of a 25-hectare property already declared an environmental park by a municipal council resolution. There, collected wastes will be segregated, with food trash and other biodegradable waste to be composted into fertilizers.



Cut out this ad and you're on your way to getting free money

Enchanted Kingdom

Your weekday fun budget has just gotten a boost. We're giving you P50 Wizard Money, absolutely free, with every weekday Ride*All ticket you buy. Use it to buy food, toys, souvenirs, anything you can buy at Enchanted Kingdom! It's going to be worth more than you imagine.

Makati Sales Office: Amusement Corporation C/P, Tropical Palm Condominium, De la Rosa Street, Leguizamo Village, Makati City. Park Address: Enchanted Kingdom, San Lorenzo South, Sta. Rosa, Laguna. Tel. No.: 850-8111 to 17, 843-6072 to 78. Tickets also available at all Ticketworld outlets: National Bookstore Branches, Tower Records (Makati, Alabang), Robinson's Dept. Stores (Galleria, Manila), Ticketworld Head Office.

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Get free P50 Wizard Money! When was the last time you received P50.00 free? Now you can, and it's in specially-designed Wizard Money form. Get it free with your Weekday Ride-All ticket, and then use it to buy food, toys, souvenirs, anything at all at Enchanted Kingdom!

Snip, clip, and join! You can't lose!

Just clip this ad, bring it to our Makati Sales Office (G/F, Tropical Palm Condominium, 103 de la Rosa St., Makati), or the Enchanted Kingdom front gate ticket counter, and we'll give you P50 Wizard Money, absolutely free, for every Weekday Ride-All ticket you buy! The more tickets you buy, the more free money you get!

Or text us today!

You can also avail of your free P50 Wizard Money by texting us.

From Globe
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 PEX EK MAGIC

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 2333

From Smart
 TYPE IN:
 COUPON EKMAGIC

SEND TO:
 211

Wait for the reply text, save it, and present it to our Makati Sales Office or the Enchanted Kingdom front gate ticket counter, and you can avail of our weekday offer.

*If you receive a text message saying you can avail of the Weekend offer and you prefer the Weekend offer, simply repeat the texting process until you get the reply you prefer.

Globe texters are encouraged to also text in their feedback on Enchanted Kingdom. Just send to the same number as above.
 **Text messages sent will be charged the normal rate.

Promo is good only for Weekday Ride-All ticket purchases. Offer valid until October 28, 2001.

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- Promo period will be from October 15, 2001 to January 31, 2002.
- The promo is open to all the residents of the participating countries.
- Only entries received by the appliance dealers and dropped in the drop boxes until January 31, 2002 up to 10:00 pm qualifies for the promo.
- Draw date will be on March 06, 2002 in Singapore at TT International Head Office.
- All entries from participating countries: Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nigeria, New Guinea, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, UAE and Vietnam will be compiled and put together in Singapore for the draw.
- Non cash prizes are not convertible to cash.
- Winners will be published in leading dailies and will be notified thru registered mail in their respective countries.
- If the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize winners are from the Philippines, they can claim their prizes at TT Corporation Pte Ltd., Head Office located at 1003 Park Trade Center, 1718 Investment Drive, Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City. The prizes from the 4th to the 33rd prize will be delivered directly to the winners by AKIRA after positive identification.
- The 20% tax for prizes exceeding P10,000, and the travel taxes and documents shall be borne by the winner.
- A winner can win only once, if he wins more than once he gets the bigger prize.
- Redemption shall be up to (60) sixty days from the date of notification.
- Employees and family members of TT Corporation Pte Ltd, participating dealers and outlet AKIRA advertising agency up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity are not qualified to join the promo.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3142, Series of 2001

Living high, dying fast

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

IN "The Fast and the Furious," filmmaker Rob Cohen takes a knowing look at the underworld of young amateur racers and self-employed mobsters, furiously roaring off to their demise. They live high and fast, and are expected to die in just as rapid a fashion, despite the fact that they think that, like cats, they're blessed with nine lives.

Theirs is a bright, brittle world, but it's also completely closed to those who aren't in the know. It has its own rules, language, codes and symbols, and this makes it almost impossible for

the cops to penetrate it, so that they can put some law and order into it.

But Brian (Paul Walker) is not your usual undercover cop. He's potentially as "crazy" and dangerous as the prosperous punks whose vices and rackets he seeks to subvert.

Armed with this bravado and braggado-

cio, he gradually finds acceptance in this netherworld of crime and co-opted courage. Even better, he becomes the best buddy of one of its prime movers, Dominic (Vin Diesel).

As he gets more and more into the thick of things, he gets sucked into its dangerous core. Before he knows it, and despite his best in-

stincts, he's reciprocating Diesel's character's affection with a loyalty whose intensity surprises even himself.

At one climactic point, it prompts him to effect the terribly dangerous rescue of a wounded gang member from the container van that they are trying to hold up—while the van is in full, erratic motion on a busy street.

This scene is one of the riskiest attempted onscreen in recent years, and shows the fast-driving punks not only as a death-defying breed, but also as a death-embracing one. This says a lot about the society that makes them have such little regard for life, including their own.

On the debit side, the plotting is sluggish and predictable, some of the dialogue is leaden, and a number of the supporting performances are dolish. We know that these punks aren't supposed to be very bright, but this is carrying things too far.

Still, the film's camerawork and editing are vivid and exciting, so all is definitely not lost.

Boob-tube boobies

Host: I hear that you will no longer go bold on the movie screen?

Sexy star: Yes, I've decided.

Host: How come? Sexy star: I've made it by going sexy; I cannot just stay there. *Gusto ko naman ngayon ipakita ang aking acting career!* (Wheel)

Host: With so many intrigues and charges against you, how do you manage to keep your cool?

Guest: Well, I just live everyday! (Duh!)

Host: I hear that you have a new way of operating on various eye defects and problems?

Guest: Yes, it's much better and safer than the old procedures.

Host: How safe is it, really?

Guest: Well, I have not had a single problem after operating on so many eye people! (Ano raw?)

Host: Is it true that you accused your former manager of getting too big a cut from your talent fees?

Guest: Well, it was not what we agreed before.

Host: So, you are accusing him of cheating you?

Guest: No, no, I would like to stand corrected! (Oh, sit down.)

Lani's dream comes true in CCP concert

"ASIA'S Nightingale" Lani Misalucha's dream of performing at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) is coming true, with no less than the 40-piece Philharmonic Orchestra, the Philippine Madrigal Singers, flutist Antonio Maigui, tenor Ramon Acyomo and Ms. Kuh Ledesma. "Lani Misalucha: A Nightingale Sings at the CCP" is happening on Oct. 30 and 31 at the CCP Main Theater, with cocktails at 7:30 p.m. and the show proper at 8:30 p.m.

The two-night concert follows Lani's recent successful Crossover concert, which filled the Araneta Coliseum to the rafters, a major feat from someone

LANI'S/ A30



MISALUCHA

And Ai Ai fulfills her own at Araneta

THE "Queen of Comedy Concerts," Ai Ai de las Alas, is back with a concert called "Out of this World na Me, Araneta na Kasal!" on Dec. 1, 2001, at the Araneta Coliseum.

After reigning at the Folk Arts Theater in her three sell-out concerts ("Respect Me" in 1998, "Seduct Me" in 1999 and "Abuse Me" in 2000), the irrepressible Ai Ai dares to conquer the Big Dome this year.

"Actually, Abuse Me was supposed to be held at the Araneta Coliseum," she says. "But I think the venue was not available so we did it at the Folk Arts Theater again. But now, we really made sure to reserve Araneta Coliseum so my dream is going to come true after all. O 'di ba ang taray ng lola mo at ka-level na niya si Lani Misalucha!"

Lending her support are (in alphabetical order) the Hunks, Jaya, Jolina Magdangal, the Maneuvres, Monserrat Choral, Pops Fernandez, Side A, and the Whiplash Dancers, under the direction of Floy Quintos from his own script.

Tickets for P1,200, P800, P600, P300 and P100 will soon be available at all SM Ticketnet branches, Backroom Inc. (435-1120 and 435-3808), JLF Organization (634-7773 or 76) and the Araneta Ticketnet (911-5555).

"Out of this World na Me, Araneta na Kasal!" is a production of JLF Organization and Backroom Inc., and is for the benefit of the Golden Acres Home for the Aged and the Infirm.

8 live bands perform on Art's Venue's 8th

ART'S VENUE, the very popular live entertainment and dance venue on Taft Avenue in Malate, Manila, is celebrating its eighth year today with non-stop music performed by eight bands.

"Feeling just great, so let's celebrate," said a statement from the venue that also said, "A is for Art, R is for Recreation and T is for Theater, all rolled into 1."

Performing tonight at Art's Venue are X-Project, Origin, X2C, Elements, R.O.B., Novia, D' Empire and Fusion bands.

ACTION-FILLED EVENTS ONLY AT THE TOWN

Oct. 19

- BUY 1-TAKE 1 on movie tickets in all 5 cinemas, including the only THX cinema in the south.
- Catch Parliament Syndicate live in a free concert, 9:00pm at the Town Plaza.

Oct. 20

- Watch Toy Symphony live, 8:30pm at the Town Plaza.



Alabang Town Center
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Masskara Festival Events

October

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 13 | 4pm Motocross Motorcade |  |
| 14 | 9am - 4pm Motocross Race, Reclamation Area
6pm Awarding of Winners, Public Plaza | |
| 17 | 8pm Ms. Bacolod Masskara 2001
Coronation Night, Bay Center | |
| 19 | 9am Charter Day Program, Bay Center
1pm Charter Day Parade | |



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Outstanding workers awarded degree by TUP

THE TECHNOLOGICAL University of the Philippines has awarded a bachelor's degree in technology to each of the Tower (The Outstanding Workers of the Republic) awardees for 2001.

These awardees join the roster of the outstanding workers of the republic: lube oil technician Roel D. Pagulayan of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Pandacan, Manila; technician Miguel P. Rosas of Star Motor Manufacturing Industries, Laguna Technopark, Sta. Rosa, Laguna; technical services controller Jerrybel A. Serquina of Manila Water Co., Balara, Quezon City; scouring landman Gregorio A. Pulla of Coals Manila Bay; instrumentation technician Eliezer T. Tupaz of Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc., Davao City; audio-visual equipment operator Leopoldo G. Salcedo of the Department of Agriculture, Butuan City.

The Tower Awards were initiated by the Rotary Club of Manila and the

TUP in 1975 as a nationwide search for outstanding blue- and white-collar (non-supervisory) workers. The Rotary Club of Manila was assisted by the network of Dole, Tesda, CSC, Metrobank, and media.

The criteria for the selection of the awardees were specific skill and capability, innovation, performance and character.

Prizes include a baccalaureate degree from TUP, a college scholarship from the TUP and the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, P30,000 in cash and a trophy.

Of the Tower Awards, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said: "In our efforts to heal and rebuild the nation, we need the talent, creativity and desire of all members of society to succeed. In this respect, much of the burden lies on the shoulders of our workers who support the economy as they make a living in factories and offices."

PAREF-NORTHFIELD

'School will benefit thousands'

BY ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

THE ESTABLISHMENT of the all-boys Paref-Northfield school in Greenmeadows, Quezon City will benefit thousands of underprivileged over the next 50 years, according to school officials.

Paref-Northfield director Pierangelo Alejo on Saturday said this as he protested the "unfair" criticisms by some "powerful and rich" residents opposed to the deal the school administration signed with the city government on the use of a city-owned 3.1-hectare lot.

Alejo maintained that the memorandum of agreement made by the school and the city government under then-Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr.

was aboveboard and was in fact advantageous to the city.

He said that contrary to the allegations of "some" residents led by the Coalition of Homeowners Associations (Coha), the use of the lot adjacent to Christ the King Church was not rent-free.

"The improvements and the services rendered would form part of the rent," Alejo stressed. "I think that's very very reasonable."

He said the school has earmarked about P130 million alone for the construction of the school buildings and other facilities. This is apart from the approximately 200 scholarships to be awarded yearly in the next 50 years to disadvantaged but deserving youths recommended by the city government, he said.

At present, the annual tuition fee at the school is pegged at P40,000, which increases by 10 to 15 percent every school year.

Under the MOA, at the end of the 50-year lease period, the city government will "reimburse" the school 25 percent of the property's assessed value.

But Alejo clarified that the assessed value refers to the school buildings and not the lot.

"The lot is not P1 billion and it has no assessed value because it is government-owned," he said. Thus, the gains of the city government far more exceeded what the school would actually get out of the agreement.

He said the school decided to transfer to another location because it lacked many facilities which could

not be upgraded given its present location.

He said the controversy in the last seven months has brought "nightmare" to the school.

"The noisy ones are just a minority of the residents and yet, what they have done affected even the peace of our families," he said.

The school has not changed its position and is "never even willing to amend" the MOA, he said. "If we allow that, it's like admitting something's wrong with the agreement. We have been consistent with our position in defending it (MOA)."

Public hearings on the controversy were closed last week. The city council is expected to deliberate on the issue on the floor starting next week.

Butcher 'boils' abattoir helper

A BUTCHER was charged with reckless imprudence resulting in frustrated homicide for allegedly pushing a slaughterhouse helper into a wok of boiling water in Quezon City on Saturday.

Edgar Bafiez, 30, a native of Ormoc City and resident of Barangay Salvacion, Quezon City, was detained at Station 1 of the Central Police District. His victim, Romeo Nufiez, of Bagong barrio, Quezon City, was in critical condition at the East Avenue Medical Center with severe burns.

SPO1 Godofredo Ergo said the incident occurred about 12:30 a.m. Saturday when Nufiez approached Bafiez, who was then drinking alone in the slaughterhouse, and told he might get too drunk to keep an eye on the hogs.

The two men argued until Bafiez pushed Nufiez into a wok of boiling water. A witness, Edmundo Ranen, pulled Nufiez out of the wok with the help of some members of the Western Police District who happened to be nearby. *Agnes Donato*

QC tricycle driver slain over passenger

A FIGHT over a passenger led to the killing of a tricycle driver by a fellow tricycle driver in Quezon City Friday night.

Renato Pallena, 27, allegedly shot dead Jimmy M. Oliverio, 36, police said.

Pallena, of Barangay San Agustin, Novaliches, Quezon City, is facing a murder charge for the death of Oliverio, said PO1 Renato Hamor of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit. But Pallena escaped after the killing, allegedly with the help of an unidentified man whom police are also hunting down.

Police said Pallena and Oliverio fought over a passenger about 7:30 p.m. Friday at the tricycle terminal on Susana Road. They almost came to blows but cooler heads pacified them.

But Pallena, armed with a handgun, waited for Oliverio at the corner of Bethsaida and Susana streets, police said. When Oliverio passed by on board his tricycle, Pallena allegedly fired, hitting him in the upper part of the body, police said. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Maid nabbed for slay

AFTER two months of hiding, Deogina Verano-Dalinog, 24, who allegedly killed a neighbor in Masbate, was arrested Saturday in her employer's house in Pasig City, where she was working as a housemaid.

Dalinog and her husband Felipe are the principal suspects in the killing of Daniel Sailag, 24, who died of 16 stab wounds, last July 30.

Dalinog was sent back to Masbate to be detained together with her husband.

Investigation showed that the couple committed the crime after they were humiliated when Sailag's father caught them trying to steal coconuts from the Sailag farm on Oct. 17, 2000.

Felipe was arrested earlier by Masbate police. *Agnes Donato*

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4 (pdt) MARITAL RAPE
5 (pdt) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
6 (pdt) LEGALLY BLONDE
7 (pdt) HULI SA AKTO
8 (pdt) SISID
9 (pdt) OSMOSIS JONES
10 (pdt) LAST ERUPTION
11 (pdt) RESERVE

Sampaguita
1 (pdt) HULI SA AKTO
2 (pdt) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 (pdt) MARITAL RAPE
4 (pdt) SISID
5 (pdt) REGING FORCE

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
1 (pdt) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2 (pdt) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 (pdt) AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4 (pdt) MARITAL RAPE

Olivarez Los Baños
1 (pdt) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2 (pdt) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 (pdt) AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4 (pdt) MARITAL RAPE

Morales Cinema
1 (pdt) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2 (pdt) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 (pdt) AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4 (pdt) MARITAL RAPE

Cabuyao
1 (pdt) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2 (pdt) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 (pdt) AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4 (pdt) MARITAL RAPE

Fourstep
1 (pdt) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2 (pdt) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 (pdt) AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4 (pdt) MARITAL RAPE

Emperor
1 (pdt) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2 (pdt) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 (pdt) AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4 (pdt) MARITAL RAPE

Fiesta World Mall
1 (pdt) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2 (pdt) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 (pdt) AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4 (pdt) MARITAL RAPE

Jade Cinema
1 (pdt) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2 (pdt) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 (pdt) AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4 (pdt) MARITAL RAPE

Berma
1 (pdt) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2 (pdt) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 (pdt) AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4 (pdt) MARITAL RAPE

CitiMall
1 (pdt) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2 (pdt) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 (pdt) AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4 (pdt) MARITAL RAPE

Center Plaza Cinema
1 (pdt) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2 (pdt) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 (pdt) AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4 (pdt) MARITAL RAPE

FCM Fairview Center Mall, Inc.
1 (pdt) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2 (pdt) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 (pdt) AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4 (pdt) MARITAL RAPE

Spring
1 (pdt) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2 (pdt) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 (pdt) AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4 (pdt) MARITAL RAPE

Sunshine
1 (pdt) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2 (pdt) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 (pdt) AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4 (pdt) MARITAL RAPE

Baclaran LRT
1 (pdt) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2 (pdt) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 (pdt) AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4 (pdt) MARITAL RAPE

PREMIERE
1 (pdt) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2 (pdt) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 (pdt) AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4 (pdt) MARITAL RAPE

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- 4 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
- 5 HEARTBREAKER
- 6 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
- 7 MARITAL RAPE
- 8 ST. FRANCISVILLE
- 9 NOVALICHES
- 10 IMUS

ERMITA
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- 2 THE HOLE
- 3 ST. FRANCISVILLE
- 4 OSMOSIS JONES
- 5 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
- 6 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
- 7 HEARTBREAKER
- 8 NOVALICHES
- 9 IMUS

NOVALICHES
935-3229 to 31

- 1 RESERVE
- 2 OSMOSIS JONES
- 3 LAST ERUPTION
- 4 OSMOSIS JONES
- 5 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
- 6 RESERVE
- 7 13 DAYS
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- 2 OSMOSIS JONES
- 3 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
- 4 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
- 5 MARITAL RAPE
- 6 SISID

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SMART MONEY ACCEPTED
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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MARITAL RAPE
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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (pdt)	OSMOSIS JONES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (pdt)	LAST ERUPTION
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ODEON-2	SISID
ROBEN	MARITAL RAPE
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TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	JURASSIC PARK 3 / STICK MAN

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	MARITAL RAPE
REMAR	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
REMAR-2	SISID

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
B	SISID
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 to 70
CINEMA-1	CINE EUROPA 4
CINEMA-2	OSMOSIS JONES

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 to 19)
CINEMA-1	MR. NICE GUY
CINEMA-2	SISID
CINEMA-3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ST. FRANCISVILLE
CINEMA-5 (pdt)	FAST & FURIOUS
CINEMA-6	MARITAL RAPE
CINEMA-7	LA VIDA ROSA
CINEMA-8	HULI SA AKTO
CINEMA-9 (pdt)	OSMOSIS JONES
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	13 DAYS
CINEMA-11 (pdt)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-12	THE HOLE
CINEMA-14	LAST ERUPTION
CINEMA-15	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-2	OSMOSIS JONES
CINEMA-3	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-4	13 DAYS
CINEMA-5	THE HOLE
CINEMA-6	HEARTBREAKERS

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	IKAW LAMANG
CINEMA-2	LAGING SARIWA ANG SUGAT
CINEMA-4	KALARO

A30

Lani's ...
(From page A31)

who started out as a multiplex singer imitating the likes of Whitney Houston and Barbra Streisand.

"I come from a musically-inclined family," she says. "If other families play board games together on lazy Sunday afternoons, my family would always sing songs together. We grew up in that atmosphere. Maybe that's why my sisters and I ended up in show business."

Her sisters are May Bayot, who is also a singer, and Carlyn Bayot, a violinist.

"I never imagined that I would be this blessed," Lani says. "I mean, come on, I am married, with two kids at that. In this business you have to be single, available and desirable in order to click. I don't fit that mold at all. I guess you can call it sheer luck."

Or you can call it sheer talent.

"I believe in giving my 100 percent in all my shows for I wouldn't want to short-change the people who shelled out hard-earned money just to be entertained," she says.

Tickets for P5,000, P2,500, P2,000, P1,500, P1,000 and P500 are available at all Ticketworld outlets (891-5610), Primeline Inc. (897-6170 or 897-6172), Robinson's Department Store, CCP Box Office (832-1125), Music Museum, Tower Records and National Bookstore branches.

For ticket delivery, call Manolet Garcia at 0917-2417907 or 0919-6543586.

Mad ...
(From page A31)

and she wanted to feel that for him there was no one else who came close, that in his eyes she was the most beautiful. In return, she also wanted to be able to give him her unparalleled love.

"When I tell her when she gets back from her US concerts that my opinion has changed and I now see the logic of her point of view, I'm sure she'll let out a hearty laugh and say, 'I told you so.'"

Theme songs

We even made a list of inspiring yet realistic love songs that would eventually comprise our "theme songs." We agreed that "Will of the Wind" was one of our favorites, at present. In particular, the lines "It comes and it goes, and God only knows, you must keep your sails on ready, so let it begin, you must befriend the will of the wind."

Maybe it's a deeper understanding of what loving is all about, especially since Josh and I have moved in with my mom. Having three generations of us under one roof has sharpened my insights. Parenting instills in you the commitment of loving and nurturing unconditionally, and it doesn't end even when you're baby is already a 30-year-old mom herself.

That's why my new favorite song, and it also happens to be the ring tone of my phone, is Gary V's "I Will Be Here." The first lines already encompass what true love is all about: "Tomorrow morning when you wake up and the sun does not appear, I will be here. If in the dark we lose sight of love hold my hand, have no fear, 'cause I will be here."

POWER PLANT
CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No. 8981440-41

AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS - P 13 11:00, 1:10, 3:25, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10	OSMOSIS JONES - GP 11:05, 1:20, 3:35, 5:50, 7:25, 9:30	LEGALLY BLONDE - P 13 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
THIRTEEN DAYS - P 13 12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40	THE HOLE - R 18 11:45, 2:10, 4:35, 7:00, 9:30	HEARTBREAKERS - P 13 11:45, 2:15, 4:45

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri., 11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2001 **A31**

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Mad, unparalleled and other kinds of love

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

LEGALLY blonde
SNEAK PREVIEW

LEGALLY blonde
This year go blonde!

October 15 & 16, 2001
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Robinsons Movieworld
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Tickets are available @ Movieworld.
REGULAR SCREENING BEGINS OCTOBER 24, 2001

ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4
OPENS OCT. 17 (Wed.)

about Adam
A Romantic Comedy About A Tale Of Familial Sexual Intrigue

Lucy Owens has terrible luck in love. While doing her routine of singing torch songs, waiting tables, and complaining about her love life, she meets Adam. The two exchange just one look and Lucy is ready to marry him. However, Adam proves to be unpredictable as he sets out to date Lucy's sisters, Alice and Laura. A waitress falls for a handsome customer who seduces her, her two sisters, her brother, and her brother's girlfriend.

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VICKY • OZ • JESSICA • HEATHER • JIM'S DAD

THE OUTRAGEOUS ADVENTURES CONTINUE!

OPENS OCT. 17

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

I JUST finished reading a book entitled "Mr. Maybe" by British author Jane Green. The story is simple. The lead character, Libby Mason, works in publishing. She is pursued and won over by Ed McMann, a super-rich investment banker. He showers her with dozens of flowers every day, an expensive Donna Karan evening dress, and a beautiful Gucci bag. He also asks her to marry her.

Everything should be perfect except he's a total bore, during conversation and even more so in bed. Jane can't help comparing him to Nick, her immediate past boyfriend, who is gorgeous but has no money since he's just a struggling author.

Will she go on with the wedding or will she back out?

The book cheekily addresses some universal truths as far as dating is concerned. Extravagant gifts do help to make a man more attractive, but in the end if you really love someone, a bottle of Nutella hazelnut chocolate spread will be the most valued gift you could ever receive.

No such thing

Let me paraphrase a bit of Jane's conversation with her father. Her dad is telling her that when he first met Jane's mom, he thought she was just the prettiest, most fascinating woman on earth. Their love eventually became more sedate, a source of comfort and companionship.

But her dad emphasizes that for love to last, that initial attraction, that head-over-heels quality, has to be there from the very start. You can't build something out of nothing; there's no such thing as "learning to love" another. You can learn to make allowances for another's shortcomings because you do love that person.

A friend of mine used to tell me that it's scary to be so passionately in love because that might one day wane. There was a time I started to believe him. But now I beg to differ from his opinion.

You do need to feel that there's nobody else in the world for you, that nobody is as handsome or as intelligent or as interesting as the person you choose to embark on a love relationship with.

Unparalleled

Exactly 47 years ago last Thursday, Oct. 11, my mom and dad had gotten married. My mom, apart from always emphasizing that your partner has to "bring out the best in you," also said that for a marriage to thrive and to last, the couple has to share a doting,

OPENS OCT. 17!
IT'S SHOWTIME!!!

aya medel gerald madrid sheila ysrael pinky amador anita linda roy alvarez and allen dizon stella i. pamela ortiz

naked nights
malayo pa ang umaga

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY JOVEN M. TAN
FLT FILMS INTERNATIONAL

WORLD MARTIAL ARTS CHAMPION
HECTOR ECHAVARRIA

PLAYBOY CENTERFOLD PLAYMATE 2000
NIKKI "DANIELLE" LEMKE

EXTREME FORCE

American Fitness (USA):
"You have seen Bruce Lee's movies, as well as Stallone and Schwarzenegger's, but there is a man on Earth who could disintegrate the superbodys with a flick of the wrist-his name is Hector Echavarria."

Clarín (Argentina):
"The Argentinean Hector Echavarria ended the match with a fury of kicks and punches on the fourth round, <in what is> without a doubt a fight that is the envy of Chuck Norris and Bruce Lee."

Miami Herald (USA):
"Hector Echavarria, who's been training six hours a day, six days a week, will have one more time the chance to show the world that he is the best Martial Artist on the planet."

MEET HIM ON OCT. 17

OPENS OCTOBER 24!

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MONDAY,
OCTOBER 15, 2001

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

B3

BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

COMPAQ
Evo Desktops

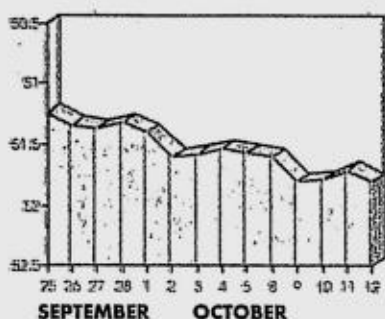
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INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



Peso-Dollar Rate
P 51.80 = \$1
As of 5 p.m.,
Oct. 12, 2001

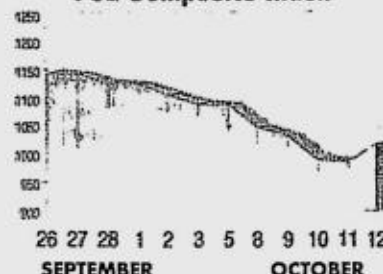
Y 121.34 = \$1
As of 5 p.m.,
Oct. 12, 2001

GOLD: \$282.50/283.00
per ounce Hong Kong,
Oct. 12, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Bargain-hunting seen

PSE Composite Index



AFTER dropping to a 10-year low last week, some follow-through bargain-hunting is seen to keep the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index above the 1,000-point mark at least during the early part of this week.

The index hit a low of 982 last week before Friday's technical rally allowed it to close at 1,017.87. Considered as the worst performing market in the region since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, the Phisix shed another 6.5 percent last week. (See story on page B6.)

(See stock market report on Page B6)

Gov't seen to exceed 2001 investment target

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE BOARD of Investments is set to exceed its revised 2001 investment target of P100 billion as registered investments reached P94.4 billion through September this year.

The nine-month tally was four times the P23.65 billion posted during the same period last year and Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said this reflected the upbeat outlook of local and foreign investors on the country's economic recovery and growth prospects despite the continuing global downturn.

In New York, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said on Friday that the Philippines was standing by its 2001 target of 3.3 percent in gross domestic product growth despite the economic shocks heaped upon it by the US downturn.

After two days of talks with Wall Street bankers, bond investors and ratings agencies, Camacho told Reuters: "These meetings have affirmed that we



have the right program. What we need to do is implement it faster and more vigorously."

Topping the list of projects,

Camacho said the government needs to modernize the country's agricultural sector "as quickly as possible" and continue the drive for new investments.

The BOI approved 184 projects in the first nine months this year (from 121 last year) and the agency expected these enterprises to create 28,079 new jobs, up 58.2 percent from 17,749 last year. BOI-registered investments are not actual capital inflows but manifestation of businessmen's interest in setting up shop in the country.

Roxas said investments in September were up 13.09 percent to P4.58 billion from P4.05 billion a year ago despite the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States which have sapped investor and consumer confidence across the globe.

Filipino businessmen, whose project registrations soared 732 percent to P45.33 billion in the first three quarters of the year, fueled the sharp rise in BOI registrations.

Local investors accounted for 75 percent of total equity investments, which hit P60.21 billion in the first nine months this year, up 467 percent from P10.62 billion during the same period last year.

GOV'T/B5

GM AutoWorld

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ON top of padded premiums and excessive salaries and perks, the GSIS seems to be guilty of flagrant tax fraud. Tax fraud? But, isn't the GSIS exempt

from all kinds of taxes? Precisely.

Under the Internal Revenue Code, a non-life insurance company is subject to the value-added tax

(VAT) of 10 percent of premium. But the law also allows the company, as every company does, to pass the VAT on to the insured. This is why you see on the invoice of your car insurance policy an entry for the VAT, which replaced the old premium tax.

As a result, the buyer of a non-life insurance policy ends up paying the VAT. The seller or the company becomes a collecting agent. In due time, the company remits the VAT to the BIR.

Under its charter, the GSIS is exempt from all taxes, including the VAT. Since the GSIS is VAT-exempt, there is no VAT that it can pass on to the insured. Besides, if the insured is an equally tax-exempt government agency, then this is another reason why the VAT should not

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General



be charged by the GSIS to the government agency.

But I have seen policies issued by the GSIS to a tax-exempt government agency where the invoices show a 10-percent VAT. Here is the spectacle of a tax-exempt GSIS charging VAT to a tax-exempt insured. What is going on?

The GSIS also charges VAT on reinsurance premiums. Where the risk is too large for the GSIS to carry on its own, part, if not the bulk, of the risk, and the corresponding share of the premium, are passed on to reinsurers. Thus, in the case of Napocor, the GSIS keeps only 5 percent for its own account, 95 percent is reinsured. As a result, 95 percent of the premium ends up as reinsurance premiums to reinsurers.

From the start of the VAT system, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) ruled that the reinsurance premium is not subject to the VAT. Since the reinsurance premium forms part of the insurance premium, which is already wholly subject to the VAT, to charge the VAT on the reinsurance premium is double taxation.

But, in its invoice to the insured, the GSIS includes the VAT on the reinsurance premiums. In the case of Napocor, the VAT that the GSIS was charging on the reinsurance premium for the policy that took effect in March last year was a cool \$1,282,500. Fortunately for the Filipino consumer,

Napocor, which is totally exempt from taxes, including the VAT, refused to pay this extra charge.

Napocor was not the only one picked for slaughter. I have copies of invoices to other clients showing the VAT on reinsurance premiums.

In a reinsurance transaction, the GSIS is the buyer, the reinsurer is the seller. In any kind of sales transaction, the seller always passes on all taxes to the buyer. But in a reinsurance contract with the GSIS, the reinsurance premium is not subject to the VAT as I already explained. Moreover, the GSIS is exempt from all taxes. So, why is the insured being charged the VAT?

There is something else that is strange. In the Insurance Commissioner's annual report for 1999, there is no record of any kind of taxes collected by GSIS from anybody. What the hell has been going on? I wonder what the Commission on Audit has also missed.

If the GSIS remits its VAT collections to the BIR on a regular basis, then the taxpayer can ask for a refund. But it the GSIS does not remit its collections to the BIR, that is an entirely different matter altogether, isn't it?

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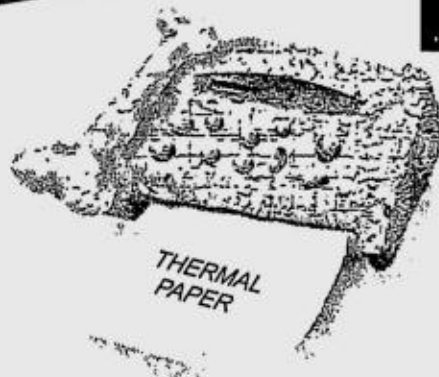
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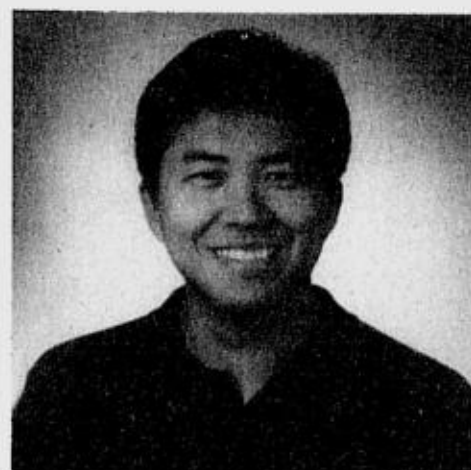
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iBank raising P1B in capital to expand branch network

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

MEDIUM-SIZE International Exchange Bank (iBank) is raising an additional P1 billion in fresh funds this year through the issuance of convertible preferred shares, a bank official said.

The additional capital will be used for the commercial bank's expansion plans, particularly to acquire additional bank branches to strengthen its foothold in the banking system.

The additional tier-1 capital will jack up the bank's paid-in capital, which currently stands at P3.4 billion, and help the bank weather the difficult economic conditions.

iBank executive vice president Antonio Moncupa said the P1 billion in additional funds would improve the bank's capital adequacy ratio to about 15 percent under the new Basle-based capital guidelines set by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

This will thus put the bank even ahead of the 10-percent minimum capital adequacy ratio required by the existing banking laws.

"We're also planning to expand our branch network. We're currently building 11 more branches," Moncupa said.

iBank has currently 59 branches. The purchase of 11 branch licenses from the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. will bring its branch network to 70.

Moncupa said the bank is setting up branches in Malinta, Tutuban, Taft Avenue, Intramuros and Retiro, Quezon City before the yearend.

Additional off-site Automated Teller Machines (ATM's) will also be set-up in SM City,

Filinvest Mall in Alabang and Landmark in Makati.

The company is also eyeing new branches by 2002 in Cebu, Davao and Bulacan.

Moncupa said that the expansion has been timed with the expected improvement of the economy.

Asked why the capital increase would be made through the issuance of preferred shares rather than common shares, Moncupa said: "We are diversifying our capital structure. It is a permanent capital, so it qualifies under tier-1 capital."

iBANK/B4

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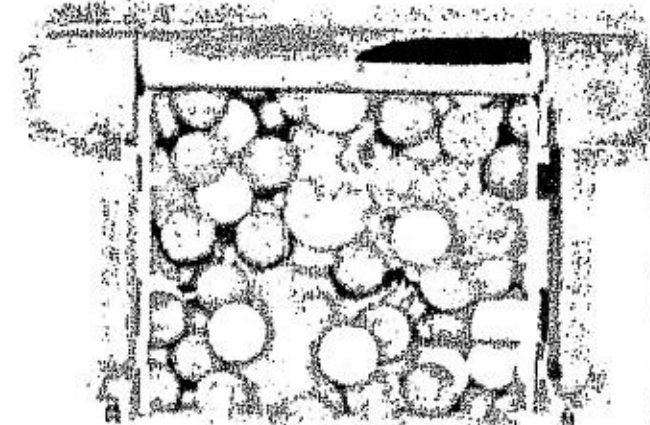
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UPS to pursue \$300-M Clark regional hub project

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

UNITED Parcel Service has reassured the Macapagal administration that it was still all systems go for its plan to build a \$300-million regional hub at the Clark International Airport despite covetous moves by Hong Kong to grab the project.

Top UPS officials met with Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II last week to personally douse speculation in Hong Kong newspapers that the company was rethinking its plans in the Philippines due to the global downturn and the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington.

The UPS officials admitted that there was an aggressive campaign to woo UPS and its rival Federal Express (which has a hub at Subic Bay) into building their hubs in Hong Kong as part of mainland China's grand plan to turn the former British colony as the region's transshipment hub. UPS operates one of its three regional hubs in Hong Kong.

But UPS officials said they were sticking to their guns and moving ahead with the first phase of the construction of its project this year and kicking off recruitment of personnel despite the global downturn.

The UPS officials stressed that Clark would be its main and only hub in the region with some of its existing transit points such as Taiwan and Singapore likely to have fewer flights in the future.

Taking its cue from FedEx, UPS picked the Philippines mainly because of its strategic location in the region—it is 1.5 hours from Hong Kong, two hours from Taiwan and four hours from Singapore, Japan and South Korea.

Roxas said the UPS project was significant for the Philippines not only because of the investment inflows. He said the project would give the Philippines a boost in its drive to manufacture more high value-added products such as computer chips to sustain the country's exports even with intense competition from other countries, notably China.

"With businesses going to just-in-time manufacturing and delivery and the growth in electronic commerce, the Philippines will have the capability to bring its goods faster to their markets," Roxas said.

He said the UPS project would complement the government's plan to develop Central Luzon as the country information technology center and the construction of a super highway between Clark and Subic.

iBank raising P1B in capital . . .

(From page B3)

Preferred shares are given the priority in the distribution of dividends but are not entitled to voting rights unlike common shares. They are, in effect, like borrowings from shareholders.

A director of iBank said the shareholders preferred to put more funds into instruments that would give a fixed amount, given the difficult economic

conditions. In iBank's case, however, the preferred shares are convertible into common shares.

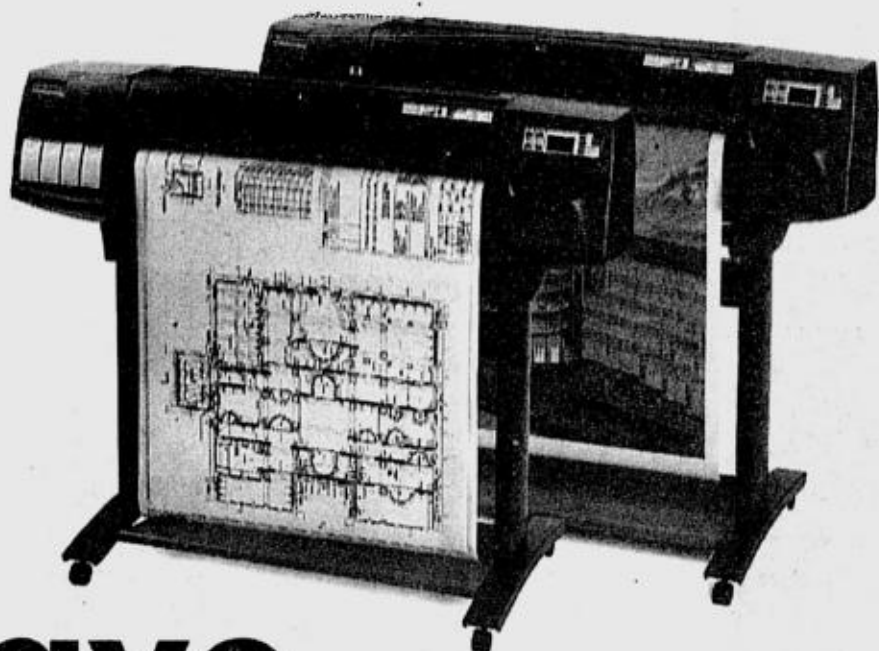
Moncupa said iBank's ownership structure would not change after the issuance of these preferred shares.

In terms of profit outlook, Moncupa said the bank would earn close to P500 million in gross revenues for the full year, but noted that net earnings would likewise go down as the bank planned to increase provisions for bad loans.



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Force-out at The Fort

A SYNDICATE of investors, real estate players and investment banks is being cobbled by real estate developers Carlos Rufino and Jacques Aguirre Dapasquier to acquire the entire stake of the Metro Pacific Group in Fort Bonifacio.

According to the grapevine, the Rufino-Dapasquier group already has a leg up over other suitors on account of Rufino's being a partner in past and ongoing Metro Pacific ventures.

The Rufino-Dapasquier group has actually made an inroad in The Fort with their yet-to-be announced acquisition of a 5-hectare strip of land adjoining the Manila Golf Club. Acquired for P2.4 billion, the property runs along the condominium corridor between First Pacific Plaza Towers and the yet-to-be-finished Bonifacio Ridge condos.

At that price, the Rufino-Dapasquier group paid about P40,000 square meter for the property, as against the P33,000 sqm that cost Metro Pacific when it acquired a 214-hectare chunk of the military camp in 1995.

The Rufino-Dapasquier group for the condominium corridor purchase included shipping heiress Doris Magsaysay Ho and the low-key Que family, who co-owns the SM Megamall property and a few dozen houses in Forbes and Dasmariñas villages.

This consortium, in turn, is the nucleus of the larger syndicate that Rufino and Dapasquier are now trying to form to acquire the entire Fort Bonifacio stake of Metro Pacific.

It is not immediately clear whether the Ayalas and the Gokongweis, who have separately expressed interest in developing certain areas of The Fort, would join the Rufino-Dapasquier group.

According to the grapevine, Rufino and Dapasquier have two weeks left to form the syndicate and make a formal offer to ING Barings, financial adviser to Metro Pacific.

What is on the bloc now is the entire 87-percent stake of Metro Pacific in Bonifacio Land Corp., the consortium that won the 1995 bidding for the Fort Bonifacio privatization.

The 1995 consortium's bid, P39.2 billion (at pre-crisis exchange rate of P26-\$1), enabled the Ramos government to post a modest budget surplus.

Dupas who?

FOR ladies looking for a catch, Jacques Dapasquier is one of the few remaining eligible fish in the crisis-struck pond.

Dupasquier's mother is a sister of the late Tomas Aguirre, father of Banco Filipino vice chair Albert

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin



"Bobby" Aguirre. This makes Bobby another man-about-town, and Jacques first cousins.

Jacques, who is in his 40s, also sits in the boards of Banco Filipino and related companies, representing the one-third stake of his branch of the family in the multibillion-peso Aguirre empire.

Dupasquier's father, a French national, was himself independently wealthy, having been a former chair/CEO of Johnson and Johnson.

Educated in the United States and worked for various multinational corporations in Europe,

Jacques has ventured into several real estate projects since he relocated to the Philippines in 1994.

Among his latest venture, in partnership with Carlos "Charlie" Rufino, is the spanking new Net One Center beside One McKinley condo in The Fort.

Heard through the grapevine

ACCORDING to S. Cuttle Butt, Metro Pacific chair Manuel V. Pangilinan is learning the Tagalog folk song "Ako Ang Nagtanim," humming the tune as he rues the impending loss of their group's crown jewel, The Fort.

The first stanza of the song goes like this:
Ako ang nagtanim at nagbayo at nagsaing
Subalit ng maluto ay iba ang kumain.
Mapalad din naman ang sinumang nakakain
Lubos na nas'yahan walang pagod ni kailang!
(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Gov't ...

(From page B1)

Foreign equity investments climbed 188.37 percent to P14.88 billion from P5.16 billion a year ago with Singapore (P9.41 billion), Japan (P1.48 billion), and Sweden (P725 million) as the top sources of foreign investments.

Camacho said the biggest threat to the country's economic growth was domestic consumer confidence as Filipinos grapple with uncertainties that stem from the global slowdown.

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Bank reserves eyed for restructured loans

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is poised to require banks starting next year to set aside a provision of 2.5 percent initially and up to 5 percent a year later as reserves for a growing amount of restructured loans.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said that only banks that would expand their capital base whether by the usual infusion of existing or new stockholders or by accepting the so-called tier-2 capital would be exempted from this provision.

"As an incentive, we would allow banks that would submit themselves to a tier-2 capital build up to be exempt from this ruling. Otherwise, banks have to pay a 2.5-percent provision next year and then 5 percent a year later," he said.

Reyes said the new policy would be contained in a new circular to be issued in the next two weeks.

The BSP requires banks to set aside a provision of 2.5 percent for loans classified as non-performing or those accounts whose principal or interest have not been paid in three successive months.

The provision is a safeguard for a possible loan default, and the central bank, as regulator, would like to ensure that the health of individual lenders and the banking system would be preserved.

As the level of bad loans swelled to 17.72 percent of the commercial banks' loan portfolio in July from 16.69 percent a month ago, the amount of restructured loans soared as well.

As of July, the amount of restructured loans went up to P107.779 billion from P105.692 billion the previous month and from P81.171 billion a year ago.

Reyes said the central bank had been encouraging local lenders to start attracting tier-2 capital in lieu of the usual capital infusion. "Tier-1 capital is still better but no one is willing to put up that kind of money right now so

we also encourage tier 2," he noted.

He said the central bank would like to encourage lenders to start building up their capital so they would be more liquid, which would mean they could lend out more aggressively and thus be more profitable.

"Banks' existing capital are already tied up to bad loans," Reyes said.

The General Banking Act of 2000 has allowed the banking sector to go into tier-2 capital whereas before, banks are only allowed to entertain tier 1 or investors in straight equity.

Tier-2 capital, also called subordinated debt in industry parlance, is the kind of capital that provides banks additional money without necessarily diluting the equity of existing shareholders as opposed to tier-1 capital, which is straight equity.

In the event of a liquidation, it is inferior to a depositor but would be prioritized compared to shareholders.

Tier-2 capital has some of the characteristics of a deposit and also of equity. While it is pumped in like equity, it gets paid a fixed price for its investment similar to a deposit. Shareholders' return depends on the bank's profitability but a tier-2 investor is assured of fixed earnings.

"Tier-2 capital would only work if a bank operates in a more transparent manner because it is like an instrument that you sell to the public and this activity needs utmost disclosure," Reyes said.

The central bank official said the BSP is also set to give banks more incentives to go into tier-2 capital.

Earlier, BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said banks that would tap tier-2 capital could be allowed to deduct in their tax obligations any interest payments to investors of tier-2 capital.

The downside to tier-2 capital is that it eats into the profitability of shareholders, dilutes the bank's earnings since the tier-2 investors are paid a fixed amount.

could provide pre-fabricated construction materials suitable for floating docks and port construction projects.

"Hibino said that using this type of construction materials is less expensive as compared with developing the proposed site for a seaport complex," Dalipe said.

Aside from the Japanese firm, other companies which have expressed interest to locate in the Zamboanga Freeport included the Chinese noodle manufacturer Hampton Manufacturing Inc., dried fruit producer WAE Corp. and the Austrian special paper producer and paper converter Trienberg Holding.

According to Zamboanga Freeport marketing chief Ma. Socorro F. Cipriano, the freeport is strategically located in the Brunei-Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines East-Asian Growth Area (BIMP-Enga), which opens to 30 million consumers in the area.

"The advantage of our locators is they could import the raw materials and export their output or sell them locally provided they pay the needed taxes," Cipriano added.

Zamboanga freeport seeks Japan funding

BY CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The Zamboanga Freeport Authority will propose a P2-billion wharf development project for possible co-financing to the Japanese government.

The first and only freeport zone in the Visayas and Mindanao plans to put up a floating wharf, which could be used as a shipyard servicing fishing, passenger and cargo vessels plying shipping routes in the area.

Zamboanga Freeport Authority chair and administrator Manuel A. Dalipe said that this would be in preparation for the freeport's plan to develop an international seaport complex in the medium term.

Dalipe said that a current locator, Japanese trading firm MDN Co. Ltd., has already indicated its interest to develop the seaport property as part of its expansion plans next year.

"MDN director Takashi Hibino saw it feasible to build the floating wharf that could occupy a portion of our 570 hectare property," Dalipe told reporters.

He added that Japanese suppliers

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Sun Life Financial

Bargain hunters seen lifting local stock prices this week

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

AFTER dropping to a 10-year low last week, some follow-through bargain-hunting is seen to keep the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index above the 1,000 level at least during the early part of this week.

The index hit a low of 982 last week before Friday's technical rally allowed it to close at 1,017.87. Considered as the worst performing market in the region since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, the Phisix shed another 6.5 percent last week.

Citisecurities Inc. head of research April Lee-Tan said: "There might be a continuation of the technical bounce early this week, taking cue from the advances of the US and the international

markets. The next resistance is at 1,070."

Lee-Tan said that blue-chip issues would likely benefit most from bargain-hunting activities.

Irving Ackerman, president of I. Ackerman & Co., said investors were waiting for a good time to brave the local stock market again. He said it would still have to be confirmed whether the market has hit bottom.

MARKET PLAY

Referring to Friday's slight rebound, Ackerman said: "There might be a change in sentiment but one day of rally doesn't make a market and one day doesn't make a trend. Three factors would continue to affect investor sentiment: the US markets, the developments in Afghanistan and the problems in the country."

Ackerman said bargain-hunting activities benefited local stocks across the board last Friday, but that any gain could be short-lived as the market remained cautious on what would happen next.

For investors scouting for bargains, Ackerman said that among the most fundamentally sound stocks in the market were blue chips Bank of the Philippine Islands, Ayala Land Inc., Ayala Corp. and SM Prime Holdings Inc.

Stock market portal 2tradesia.com noted that part of the heavy selling last week was triggered by political analysts and economists' remarks that recovery prospects would be weak for the Philippines, which was aggravated by economic planners' move to scale down 2002 economic growth forecast to 4-4.5 percent.

For this week, 2tradesia.com said tight-bound trading session within 1,000 to 1,050 might prevail until investors were able to get over the consequences of the Sept. 11 tragedy in the United States.

"So far, we've witnessed how several large-cap

names are fine-tuning strategies to cope with this phenomenon. Most are accelerating debt retirement, postponing foreign bond issuances and/or accentuating asset disposals. The strategy therefore is to pinpoint companies armed with good cash chest, or those with ventures that provide steady stream of internal cash flows. This would be the preferred scenario for bargain hunters aiming to limit downside risks in a market that continues to reel with uncertain sentiment," it said.

Now that support levels have become difficult to predict, 2tradesia.com said the best strategy would be to buy on dips and sell on strengths.

"Buyers need to consider immediate exit points and be content with modest gains. If this trend persists, there is a strong likelihood for the Phisix to stabilize within an acceptable support plane above 1,000," it said.

For its part, Philstocks.net said that after five consecutive weeks of selling, investors should start to shift their focus from risks to opportunities.

"The market's steep decline to 10-year lows has provided investors a chance to position themselves ahead of an eventual recovery once the military campaign would show some tinge of success," it said.

"Investors usually overreact to bad news, so situations like the Sept. 11 attack can create a perfect buying opportunity. If terrorist problems can be resolved without too much lasting damage, there will be big money to be gained by those who will be buying when others are bailing out. Moreover, if troubles are resolved, shares will rebound their way back to the levels they maintained before the bad news arrived. For longer-term investors, who are willing to buy on dips and hold for years, the odds for making money are higher. Choose stocks whose earnings are less at risk from a slowing global economy," Philstocks.net said.

Receiver seeks Uniwide rehab even without new investors

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE INTERIM receiver of the Uniwide Sales group of companies last Friday submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission a proposal to push through with the rehabilitation of the retail group even in the absence of any prospective investor.

In a second amendment to the Uniwide rehabilitation plan, the SEC appointed three-member interim receiver committee led by its chair Monica Jacob proposed to settle P12.97 billion of debt to secured commercial banks through payment-in-kind or so-called dacion en pago arrangements.

Although the rehabilitation plan provides for the payment of debt using operating assets, the plan calls for the leaseback arrangements for the Uniwide

group's Avenida Department Store, Coastal Mall and Metro Mall Warehouse Club and a Kalookan property for at least 10 years at P125 per square meter a month.

"The leaseback is critical to the success of the plan for the continuous operation of at least seven stores, to generate sufficient cash to service the debts to trade suppliers and other unsecured creditors after the dacion of nearly all assets of the Uniwide Group," Jacob said.

Under the plan, Uniwide would also pay P2.327 billion in unsecured debts by converting half of the obligations into 15-year zero-coupon convertible notes and the restructuring of the other half into a 10-year term loan.

The convertible notes can be convertible into common shares of UHI in the third year and Uniwide has the option to redeem the shares anytime during the 15-year period.

The 10-year term loan shall be at zero interest rate with a grace period of three years.

Residual debt of P44.14 million with Land Bank of the Philippines shall be converted into a five-year term loan with payment of both principal and interest subject to cash flow from retail operations.

Jacob stressed that Uniwide's retail business consisting of eight warehouse clubs and two department stores was still viable.

After the decline from its peak of P14.5 billion in 1997, net sales have bottomed at P4 billion following Uniwide's financial difficulties resulting largely from bad investments in real estate.

Jacob noted that in recent months, net sales have picked up and should reach P5 billion before the end of the year.

The interim receiver said that Uniwide would pursue increased sales without an investor by consolidating its retail operations to seven stores.

"With this move, savings on operating expenses will be realized which can be used as additional working capital. Operating expenses will be closely managed to keep them below 10 percent of the net sales," the receiver said.

The SEC early last year approved the rehabilitation of Uniwide based on the entry of a new investor. The receiver was then in negotiations for the proposed investment of French retailer Casino Guichard-Perrachon into Uniwide. The foreign retailer, however, withdrew from the talks following the refusal of Philippine National Bank and Allied Bank Corp. to agree to the rehabilitation plan and given the onset of unfavorable and adverse political and economic conditions.

The Uniwide group has already finalized payment-in-kind arrangements with three banks, namely United Coconut Planters Bank, International Exchange Bank and Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, October 12, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42.5	45	42.5	45	673,700
China Banking Corp.	550	550	550	550	60
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	16.5	17.5	16	17.25	832,300
Global Business Bank Inc.	74.5	85	74.5	85	718,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	178	178	172	175	45,380
Philippine National Bank	48	49	48	49	493,500
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	1,000

FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filinvest Fund Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	170,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1280	1310	1280	1310	2,800
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1085	1110	1085	1100	9,330

COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	1,580,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	590	600	590	600	1,530
Liberty Telecom Holdings	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	10,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.25	3.5	3.25	3.5	160,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	345	352.5	345	350	20,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.018	40,800,000

POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	22	22.5	21.75	21.75	229,100
Manila Electric Co. B	32	33	31.5	32.5	1,465,700
Peltron Corp.	1.14	1.2	1.14	1.18	8,935,000

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.24	1.34	1.24	1.34	1,357,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	100,000

FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.06	173,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	71,000
Joilbee Foods Corp.	10.75	11	10.75	11	240,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	24.5	24.75	24.5	24.75	1,600
RFM Corp.	1.98	2	1.98	2	719,000
San Miguel Corp. A	38.5	39	38	39	68,400
San Miguel Corp. B	44.5	46	44	45.5	517,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	80,000

HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.3	2,574,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10.5	10.75	10.5	10.75	1,500
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.58	0.62	0.58	0.62	80,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.43	0.44	0.43	0.44	300,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	8,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	630,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.15	0.15	300,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.88	0.91	0.87	0.88	15,810,000
Basco Consolidated Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.145	2,950,000
Fillinvest Dev. Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.62	0.66	600,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	22.25	23	22	22.75	438,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	100,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,000
Ionics Inc.	6	6	6	6	217,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.26	1.3	1.26	1.28	933,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.57	0.6	0.57	0.6	1,620,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	220,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.19	0.21	0.19	0.2	3,080,000
Musio Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	360,000
Unilab Res. & Holdings Co.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.11	0.1	0.11	2,370,000

MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	140,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	10	10	10	10	30,000

HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	40,000

BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	23.75	24.75	23.75	24.75	2,138,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	67.5	67.5	67.5	67.5	60
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	58,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0055	0.006	0.0055	0.006	33,000,000

PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	3.75	3.9	3.75	3.9	10,188,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	50,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.16	1,220,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.2	0.225	0.2	0.225	3,560,000
Fillinvest Land Inc.	1.14	1.22	1.14	1.18	13,343,000
Fillinvest Land Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	70,000
SM Development Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	200,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	4.85	5.1	4.85	5.1	3,556,000

MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	400,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	20,000
Ilogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.02	0.022	0.02	0.02	99,900,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	800,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	300,000
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	25,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	2,200,000
Phillex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	6,420,000
Phillex Mining Corp. B	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	4,040,000

OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	7,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	3,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	380,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	20,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	140,000

SHARES					
Banks & Fin Svc	2,947,970	150,443,455	UP 11.53		
Comm'l & Ind'l	190,924,410	352,619,315	UP 27.92		
PRO	32,187,000	74,154,120	UP 22.19		
Mining	139,080,000	5,185,400	DOWN 31.06		
OIL	10,540,000	251,400	UP 0.16		
GRAND TOTALS:	375,679,410	582,693,970			

AVERAGES					
Banks & Fin Svc	407.92	UP 11.53			
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,458.48	UP 27.92			
PRO	402.86	UP 22.19			
Mining	1,010.20	DOWN 31.06			
OIL	1.48	UP 0.16			
All Shares Index	662.51	UP 15.33			
Composite	1,017.87	UP 27.84			
NO. OF ADVANCES: 54; NO. OF DECLINES: 8; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 22; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 84; NO. OF TRADES: 2,797					

CURRENCIES

Oct. 12, 2001					
Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US\$	Foreign currency in Peso	
United States	Dollar	1.107665	1.000000	51.7940	
Japan	Yen	0.009124	0.008237	0.4266	
United Kingdom	Pound	1.601019	1.445400	74.8630	
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.142019	0.128215	6.6408	
Switzerland	Franc	0.673517	0.608051	31.4934	
Canada	Dollar	0.708316	0.639468	33.1206	
Singapore	Dollar	0.609444	0.550206	28.4974	
Australia	Dollar	0.552066	0.498405	25.8144	
Bahrain	Dinar	2.938260	2.652661	137.3919	
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.295346	0.266638	13.8102	
Brunei	Dollar	0.608942	0.549753	28.4739	
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000101	0.0052	
Thailand	Baht	0.024763	0.022356	1.1579	
UAE	Dirham	0.301652	0.272331	14.1051	
Korea	Won	0.000857	0.000774	0.0401	
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.902800	46.7586	
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.461594	23.9078	
France	Franc	0.152450	0.137631	7.1285	
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.409673	21.2186	
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.065609	3.3982	
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.022380	1.1591	
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000466	0.0241	
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.151840	7.8644	
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004503	0.2332	
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005426	0.2810	
Luxembourg	Franc	0.024790	0.02238	1.1591	
Ireland	Punt	1.269739	1.146325	59.3725	



LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

319 Son. Gil Puyat Avenue Ext., Makati City
Tel. Nos. 840-30-78; 843-78-31; 818-94-11 to 29

STATEMENT OF CONDITION (Head Office and Branches) As of September 21, 2001

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION (Bank and Financial Subsidiaries) As of September 21, 2001

ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Items	P 3,027,322,158
Due from Bangko Sentral	11,087,441,008
Due from Other Banks	1,855,359,913
Interbank Loans Receivable	7,853,073,110
Trading Account Securities (Net)	337,937,616
Investment in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)	62,319,095,438
Loans and Discounts and Advances (Net)	94,639,105,471
Underwriting Accounts (Net)	113,316,263
Equity Investments (Net)	4,988,968,067
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)	4,042,984,821
Other Assets (Net)	
Property Owned/Acquired	10,782,434,305
Others	10,017,829,245
TOTAL ASSETS	P 211,814,868,433

LIABILITIES	
Demand Deposits	P 64,997,088,262
Savings Deposits	68,693,863,912
Time Deposits	21,048,138,637
Special/Other Deposits	462,601,158
Due to Bangko Sentral	66,033,128
Due to Banks	174,842,038
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders	1,775,095,675
Bills Payable:	
BSP-Rediscounting/Special Programs	1,121,719,724
Deposits Substitutes	272,170,479
Others	23,268,120,437
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits	2,726,084,681
Other Liabilities	8,194,711,197
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P 192,800,777,318

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	
Capital Stock	P 9,200,000,000
Surplus	6,789,023,024
Surplus Reserves	3,158,812,077
Other Capital Accounts	(142,743,886)
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P 19,104,089,115
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P 211,814,868,433

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P 5,810,947,544
Bills for Collection	733,302,434
Spot/Future Exchange Sold	4,343,675,725
Spot/Future Exchange Bought	(452,193,490)
Assets Held under Trust and Investment Management Agreements	14,116,441,692
Invested in:	
- Government Securities	5,483,644,968
- Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stocks	4,218,254,477
- Loans and Discounts	1,169,510,122
- Other Assets	3,247,032,325
Accountabilities:	
- Trust and Other Fiduciary	3,277,469,782
- Common Trust Funds	1,395,941,697
- Investment/Fund Management	9,445,030,413
Other Contingent Accounts	32,674,642,328
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P 57,228,816,431

Other Information	
1. Deposits of:	
a. Government	P 93,855,552,262
b. Banks	11,043,566,423
c. Trust Department	129,834,584
2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law:	
a. Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 6% (Small Enterprises)	181.50%
b. Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 2% (Medium Enterprises)	233.79%
3. Amount of Non-Performing Loans	30,595,008,622
4. Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio	26.27%
5. Amount of Classified Loans and Other Risk Assets	44,189,581,888
6. General Provision for Loan Losses	1,382,008,354
7. Specific Provision for Loan Losses	12,730,402,202
8. Return on Equity (ROE)	8.39%
9. Amount of DOSRI Loans/Advances	1,704,872,753
10. Ratio of DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio	1.46%
11. Amount of Past Due DOSRI Loans/Advances	276,403,910
12. Ratio of Past Due DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio	.24%

We, CORAZON S. DE LOS SANTOS and MARGARITO B. TEVES of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above Statement of Condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

Sgd. CORAZON S. DE LOS SANTOS SVP-Controlling Group
Sgd. MARGARITO B. TEVES President and CEO

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 10th day of October, 2001 in Makati City, affiants exhibiting to me their Res. Certificate No. 0885342, issued in Mandaluyong City on February 2, 2001 and Res. Certificate No. 09373594 issued in Manila on March 2, 2001.

CHRISA SHIELA I. PIMENTEL
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2002
IBP No. 522808
Issued on January 5, 2001
PTR No. 2522497
Issued on March 29, 2001
Makati City

Doc. No. 478
Page No. 97
Book No. 1
Series of 2001

Member: Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (Deposits insured up to P100,000.00)

ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Items	P 3,031,344,394
Due from Bangko Sentral	11,087,441,008
Due from Other Banks	1,976,826,695
Interbank Loans Receivable	7,853,073,110
Trading Account Securities (Net)	337,937,616
Investment in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)	62,393,892,450
Loans and Discounts and Advances (Net)	94,485,304,285
Underwriting Accounts (Net)	113,316,262
Equity Investments (Net)	4,341,589,445
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)	4,181,881,317
Other Assets (Net)	
Property Owned/Acquired	10,784,821,091
Others	11,154,102,572
TOTAL ASSETS	P 212,453,532,225

LIABILITIES	
Demand Deposits	P 64,990,088,087
Savings Deposits	68,684,412,004
Time Deposits	21,048,138,637
Special/Other Deposits	462,601,158
Due to Bangko Sentral	66,033,128
Due to Banks	174,842,038
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders	1,775,238,581
Bills Payable:	
BSP-Rediscounting/Special Programs	1,121,719,724
Deposits Substitutes	272,170,479
Others	23,268,120,437
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits	3,357,583,265
Other Liabilities	8,214,640,595
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P 193,435,898,133

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	
Capital Stock	P 9,200,000,000
Surplus	6,789,554,673
Surplus Reserves	3,158,635,405
Other Capital Accounts	(142,743,886)
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P 19,014,646,086
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P 212,453,532,225

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P 5,810,947,544
Bills for Collection	733,302,434
Spot/Future Exchange Sold	4,343,675,725
Spot/Future Exchange Bought	(452,193,490)
Assets Held under Trust and Investment Management Agreements	14,116,441,692
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- Government Securities	5,483,644,968
- Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stocks	4,218,254,477
- Loans and Discounts	1,169,510,122
- Other Assets	3,247,032,325
Accountabilities:	
- Trust and Other Fiduciary	3,277,469,782
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- Investment/Fund Management	9,445,030,413
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TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P 57,228,816,431

Other Information	
1. Deposit of:	
a. Government	P 93,855,552,262
b. Banks	11,043,566,423
c. Trust Department	129,834,584
2. List of Bank's Financial Subsidiaries:	
a. LBP Leasing Corporation	
b. LBP Financial Services, SpA	
c. LBP Remittance Co., USA	

We, CORAZON S. DE LOS SANTOS and MARGARITO B. TEVES of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above Consolidated Statement of Condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

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Page No. 97
Book No. 1
Series of 2001

Bayantel sees drop in losses to P2.4B

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

DEBT-RIDDEN Bayan Telecommunications Inc. said it was looking at asset sale and a turnaround in corporate data revenues to help bring down its net loss to P2.4 billion by yearend from last year's P3.1 billion.

Bayantel chief finance officer Gary Olivar told the INQUIRER last week that the company was on track in meeting its yearend target as far as its September numbers were concerned.

"Our international business and our corporate data businesses are very promising. We're projecting a turnaround in corporate revenues, especially in data," he said.

Sales will come from leasing out capacity in its majority-owned backbone, the National Digital Transmission Network (NDTN). This is expected to generate a substantial amount of cash for the Lopez-owned company, Olivar said.

The NDTN is a \$70-million digital transmission network, spanning 2,762 km throughout the country. It is owned by the Telecommunications Infrastructure Corp. of the Philippines (Telicphil), a consortium where Bayantel has a 57-percent stake.

Last year, Bayantel leased out P835 million worth of capacity to Globe Telecom Inc. through a 25-year Indefeasible Right to Use (IRU) agreement.

The agreement gave Globe 8 percent of Bayantel's 83-percent capacity in the NDTN.

Olivar said he hoped to sell another P800 million worth of capacity this year, but added that there were no concrete deals with any carriers yet as of the moment.

He disclosed that Bayantel has been in talks with "a number of carriers" for the lease of more capacity.

A highly placed source from Bayantel's parent firm, Benpres Holdings Corp., revealed that Globe was one of the carriers eyeing additional capacity in the backbone.

Meanwhile, Bayantel has also seen positive effects from its cost-cutting measures that include the suspension of hiring since 1999, a decrease in its capital expenditures, suspension of some employee benefits and the lease of building space.

Olivar said the company might also undergo some "productivity reengineering processes" that may entail letting some people go.

According to the findings of Arthur D. Little (ADL), the independent firm chosen by its creditor banks, Bayantel is 10 percent overstaffed.

"But we won't be letting people go for the sake of cutting cost or meeting the magic 10 percent. It would be driven by productivity standards and reengineering. We're not going to cut people wholesale," he said.

Bayantel has at present around 2,300 employees all over the country.

The ADL findings also showed that the telecommunications firm is underpaying its staff by 10 to 15 percent.

But Olivar said this was based on international benchmarks. "We're still paying higher than the rates being paid by some of our local counterparts," he said.

Bayantel has asked its creditor banks to condone 25 percent of its unsecured debts as well as 18 months worth of interest starting Jan. 19. Its debt load has ballooned to \$477 million.

Its consolidated total assets as of end-2000 amounted to P38 billion, but all these assets are mortgaged. The cash-strapped telecom firm expects net income by year 2010.

MWC starts employees stock option program

BY CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

MANILA Water Co. has started implementing its employees stock option plan (Esop) allowing its regular employees to become part owners of the company.

The Ayala Group and its foreign partners in Maynilad, Bechtel Overseas Corp. of the US and British company United Utilities Plc., have unloaded portion of their holdings equivalent to 6 percent of the company for the employees.

MWC president Antonino Aquino said this was in compliance to a provision of the concession agreement requiring MWC stockholders to implement a stock option plan for regular employees.

Under MWC's Esop, employees can own 6 percent of the company's outstanding capital stock, equivalent to P150 million based on the P2.5 billion outstanding capital of the company as of December 2000.

"After receiving the final approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission, we have immediately

implemented our Esop," Aquino said in an interview.

MWC pegged the subscription price of the shares to be sold to employees at P1 per share, the issue price of the company's shares at the time of its incorporation in February 1998.

MWC human resources and corporate services group director Ramon M. de Leon explained in another interview that unlike other stock option plans, MWC employees need not immediately shell out cash for the shares they are acquiring.

De Leon said the shares to be sold to employees were determined based on their monthly salaries while the purchase cost would be credited by yearend. He added that Esop shares would be covered by a holding period of five years from the date of their supposed allocation, which was Feb. 1, 1998.

"Despite delays in implementation, which is supposedly not later than six months after the concession agreement has commenced, we have made sure that the countdown of the holding period starts February 1998. This means companies can unload or encash their shares by year 2003," added De Leon.

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Hipolito appointed Ceza chief

TUGUEGARAO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo has named Trade and Industry Cagayan Valley regional director Jose Hipolito the next administrator of the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority.

Hipolito replaced Rodolfo Reyes at the helm of the premier economic hub in northern Cagayan.

Officials in the region said they were hoping that with Hipolito's appointment, the full development of the Cagayan Economic Zone, created by Republic Act 7922 that was signed by former President Fidel Ramos in 1995, would be realized.

The Ceza aims to transform the Cagayan Special Economic Zone and Freeport into an "international city, a world-class center, and gateway for economic growth in the Philippines linking the dragon economies of Asia and the First World."

The economic zone covers the town of Sta. Ana and the islands of Fuga, Barit and Mabbag in Aparri town. It will link up trade with Taiwan, Hong Kong, China and the United States.

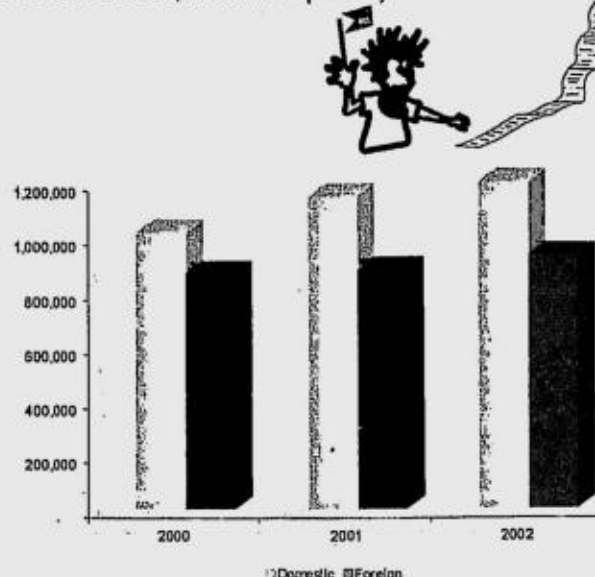
The development of the Cagayan Special Economic Zone and Freeport involves the creation of a transshipment industry, agro-industrial development, endowments of foreign technology, and development of tourism and leisure facilities.

Provincial officials said Cagayan's manpower resources are "more than adequate" to meet the project requirements for skilled and semi-skilled industrial and agricultural workers. Estantisla Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Projected outstanding gov't debt (end 2000 to 2002, in million pesos)



Source: Department of Budget and Management's proposed 2002 budget

In the government's budget proposal, the country's outstanding public debts projected to hit P2 trillion by the end of 2001 and P2.1 trillion by the end of 2002. Actual figures showed end-June 2001 public debt already at P2.26 trillion.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Banks' dollar loans down

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

LOCAL banks' dollar loan portfolio dropped by 11.1 percent or \$760 million in the second quarter of the year to \$6.086 billion from \$6.846 billion in the same period last year, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas data showed.

The same BSP data showed that the second quarter's dollar loan portfolio of these banks was lower by \$20 million than the previous quarter's level of \$6.106 billion.

As the peso weakened against the dollar toward the end of the second quarter, borrowers avoided tapping the banks' foreign currency deposit units (FCDUs).

In March, the peso was trading between 47.50 and 49.50 to the dollar. By end-June, the peso hit a low of 52 to \$1.

The BSP said \$47.1 million in net repayment of maturing obligations brought down the dollar loan portfolio of the banks while a revaluation of the peso against the dollar also chopped off another \$27.7 million from the banks' portfolio.

While exporters continued to account for the largest chunk with 32 percent of the loan portfolio, private sector borrowings declined to 80.8 percent from 82.4 percent in March. This showed an increase in government borrowings from the FCDU portfolio of banks.

Private utility companies cornered a hefty 25 percent of the dollar loan portfolio while oil companies accounted for 6 percent.

The central bank noted that the maturity profile of the FCDU loan portfolio as of the second quarter has improved as medium- and long-term accounts rose by \$61.9 million. These accounts represent 58.7

percent of the total portfolio.

In contrast, short-term accounts or those maturing within a year or earlier declined by \$81.3 million to \$2.511 billion or 41.3 percent of the total.

The banks' FCDUs are made up largely of deposits and savings of overseas Filipino workers, making

the local banks' dollar deposits more stable compared with those of other countries, the central bank said.

Banks started operating separate dollar deposit units in 1983 with initial funds of about \$600 million. The combined share of four local universal banks and a foreign bank branch accounted for 39 percent of the FCDU loans.

GOINGS-ON

GMA July income up

GMA Network Inc., the second leading broadcast company in the country, posted a record increase in net income in the first seven months of the year.

GMA's net income rose to P248.7 million as of July from P5.2 million in the same period last year.

Gross revenues went up by 36 percent from P1.5 billion in July 2000 to P2.1 billion this year while Ebitda (earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization) increased 67 percent in the same period. Income from operations also increased from P178 million in July 2000 to P554 million in July 2001, an increase of 211 percent.

Manila hosts Kia confab

On Oct. 15 to 19, delegates from Kia Motors distributors and dealers in Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Taiwan and Australia will join their Philippine counterparts at the New World Hotel for intensive information and skills upgrading on service basic training, selling services and parts and service garage organization. These vital aspects of after-sales are part of a worldwide program

to maximize service and quality assurance, developed jointly by Kia and the Special Education Organization of Germany. The conference will be opened by Jose Ch. Alvarez, chair of Columbian Autocar Corp., Kia's partner in the Philippines.

HJ Heinz-UFC inauguration

HEINZ-UFC inaugurated on Oct. 10 its manufacturing plant in Cabuyao, Laguna.

The fully automated plant is equipped with the latest production and quality control facilities. It will manufacture Heinz-UFC ketchup products under a joint venture with Nutriasia Inc.

Joselito D. Campos Jr., HJ Heinz-UFC chair and CEO, led company officials who attended the inauguration. The others include Luis F. Alejandro, chief operating officer; Gerry Reyes, director; Carlos C. Ejercito, director; and Jaime G. Formoso, vice president for corporate affairs.

Also present during the inauguration were Heinz officials led by Dick Wamhoff, EVP for Asia Pacific.

HJ Heinz is the world leader in tomato ketchup manufacturing with sales of over \$9 billion in 200 countries. UFC is a leader

in banana ketchup production.

Courtesy call on GMA

SEVEN young environmental envoys, all college students from various parts of the country, paid a courtesy call on President Macapagal-Arroyo on Oct. 12. They are: Leonardo Anderle (UP Los Baños), Tara Cantones (University of San Carlos-Cebu), Jean Dalagan (Mindanao State University-Marawi), Janice Lao (Ateneo de Manila University), Benjamin Luis (UP Baguio), Graciela Mante (University of Cebu) and Jane Uy (Ateneo de Davao).

Sen. Loren Legarda Leviste, honorary chair of Luntiang Pilipinas, and executives of Bayer Philippines Inc. accompanied the envoys to Malacañang.

The young envoys are off to Germany on Oct. 13 for an observation tour of environmental best practices, where they will be joined by their counterparts from Thailand and Singapore. The trip gives them the opportunity to get first-hand impressions of the broad spectrum of environmental protection measures that government and industry employ today in a highly advanced country like Germany.

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STORY OF PHILCOMSAT

Bled dry by special favors to special friends

BY JERRY ESPLANADA

(First of three parts)

THREE years ago, a top official of the Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. charged the telecommunications firm P6,120 for an overnight stay at the Victoria Court motel along Cuneta Ave., Pasay City.

The Philcomsat executive and his companion "made it appear it was official business. That's why, he managed to reimburse the bill," according to a company staff.

But the Victoria Court incident, a Philcomsat official said, was "forgivable" compared to what he called

Since Philcomsat "was not able to use these properties, projects that would have utilized them were deferred, resulting in immense losses with the company not gaining a single centavo from its investments," Nieto also disclosed.

Some of the real estate investments were undertaken without the approval and consent of the board, "the contracts being signed by Mr. Poblador on behalf of the company in his capacity as president," claimed another Philcomsat official.

Questionable title

Before Nieto's term, the Poblador-led board bought three lots, allegedly of questionable title, in Dasmariñas, Cavite, from businesswoman Florinda Estrada for P90 million.

The transaction, handled by Poblador, left a balance of P5 million, which was now in escrow.

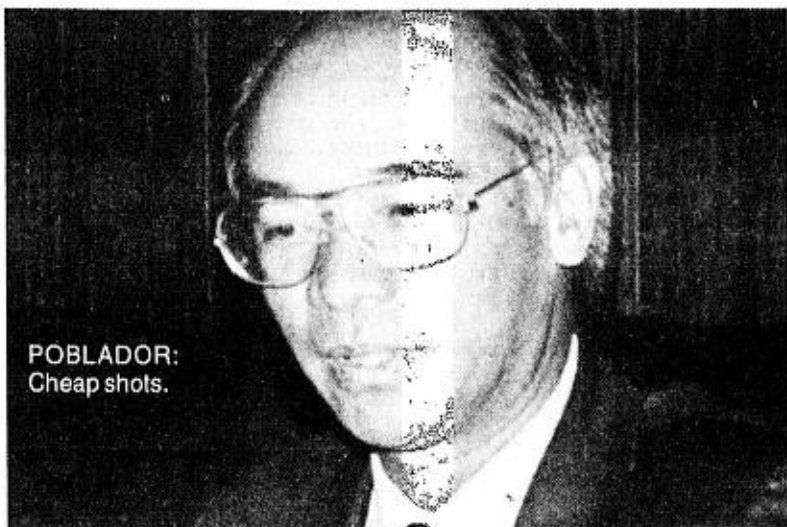
As a result of the purchase, Philcomsat is embroiled in a long and protracted lawsuit with several claimants to the same property.

Nieto, who was director of the firm when it went ahead with the purchase, said he "questioned the Estrada deal because the company lawyers told me there's something wrong with the sale. I objected to it during one of our meetings. In the next board meeting, (then Philcomsat board member and now legislator) Jacinto Paras said everything was settled and that the company can go ahead with the deal."

"There was even a legal opinion from the Rada law office, saying Philcomsat should not push through with the transaction because the company was not in the list of claimants to that Cavite property. Yet, they pursued it and went ahead with the purchase," Nieto recalled.

Without security or collateral

On Feb. 5, 1998, Philcomsat formed Waterphil Development Corp., a 50-50 partnership with



POBLADOR: Cheap shots.

Waterbank Properties Pte. Ltd. of Singapore for the construction of low-cost housing units here. A 37-hectare property in Naic, Cavite, was purchased by Philcomsat from the Avendano family for P148 million, payable in four installments, P113.4 million of which was paid between Feb. 16 and Nov. 24, 1998.

When Nieto became Philcomsat president, the board was faced with the task of acquiring a land conversion certificate from the Department of Agrarian Reform. The firm had to defer payment of the last installment due to legal easements and right-of-way problems.

During Poblador's term as Philcomsat head, the firm acquired 70 percent of Montemar Resort and Development Corp. when it bought P60 million worth of shares from the Cacho family through La Colina Resort Corp. MRDC, in turn, owns half of the Montemar Beach and Country Club Inc.

Philcomsat loaned P90 million to MRDC in exchange for 6,000 shares of MCCI. Through Poblador, Philcomsat made advances of P181,875,811.16 for the Montemar

project, P178.3 million of which went to MRDC.

An audit conducted by the Nieto board disclosed, among other things, that the fund releases had been made without any security or collateral.

Despite the huge investment, the 6,000 MCCI shares have yet to be placed in the name of Philcomsat. As a result, the company funds are reflected only as advances of Philcomsat to MRDC and do not appear in the firm's balance sheet as investments.

Several portions of the Montemar property are also under question and subject to lawsuits, according to another Philcomsat official.

Loan to a friend

Philcomsat insiders also assailed Poblador for extending an P8-million loan with real estate mortgage to his friend, Conrado Quintero, of 47 Ifugao St., La Vista, Quezon City.

Upon discovery of the transaction, the Nieto board "immediately effected the annotation of an adverse claim on the title for the protection of the rights of the firm as creditor and prior encumbrancer, considering the title was in the possession of Mr. Quintero."

When asked to pay the loan, Quintero said Poblador had already condoned his debt to Philcomsat.

When interviewed, Poblador admitted that the company lost P8 million "only because we did not exercise our option to buy that property once it was titled. Also because it was more discreet not to buy it because property values at that time had already collapsed."

He hit back at this paper's sources saying, "they obviously did not bother to read the memorandum of agreement. They're speaking from ignorance. We had an option to buy that property but we decided not to exercise that option."

Poblador also denied Quintero was his friend. "I don't even know him. He was referred to me by then Philbanking president Norberto Nazareno, who told me there's an opportunity for me and I might want to look into it."

Cheap shots

Poblador dismissed the accusations against him as "cheap shots." He noted "there is no clear shot."

He defended the Florinda Estrada deal saying, "the purchase was approved by the board and went under scrutiny by our lawyers."

"I did not know her. There were insinuations that she was close to (then PNP official and now Sen. Panfilo) Lacson, but I only met her during the negotiations. I did not recommend the purchase. Somebody else did. It was Jacinto Paras (now a congressman). But that has nothing to do with it. It still underwent our due diligence. I'm not saying, 'Okay it's not me and it's somebody else's fault.' But it was approved by the board," he explained.

Poblador pointed out that "the (land) title is clean as far as we're concerned. It's not an annotated title, but it's not fake. When we checked with the Land Registration Authority, there were other claimants. But most properties you have here that's bought in Cavite or Batangas have other

claimants."

"But you have to look at the soundness of the title itself. That was the report of the lawyers that was shown to the board and the board approved the purchase on that basis. So how can one man be faulted for a transaction like that?" he said.

Documents say otherwise. But copies of documents furnished to the INQUIRER by Philcomsat staff disputed Poblador's claims. On April 19, 1996, the Rilloraza, Africa, De Ocampo & Africa law firm reiterated their recommendation to defer the "purchase of the (Serapio) Cuenca property."

"There exists identified controversies surrounding the property and those of Estrada. Prudence dictates that Philcomsat should first await a definitive resolution of these controversies before entering into a deed of absolute sale with Florinda Estrada and also with Jose Estrada. With the existence of the various titles in the name of different claimants circulating, we expect a legal action or actions to commence any time," said lawyers Juan de Ocampo, Rafael Garcia and Charles Mercado.

The law firm, based on the 7th and 10th floors of Telecoms Plaza, suggested a "quieting of title" as the "most appropriate recourse to settle the conflicting claims."

Don't hide

On the Montemar shares, Poblador said there was "no problem. Maybe there is, but only in the minds of those who don't study what there is."

"Okay, it's in the name of MRDC. But Philcomsat owns 70 percent of MRDC. We control MRDC. So what do they mean it's not in our name?" he added.

Poblador asked his critics not to "hide behind the shadows. They should also stop whispering in Malacañang. And those in Malacañang, don't believe what these people are saying." (To be continued)

Group says Taiwan winning cement war

THE ANTI-DUMPING protest filed by Taiwan's cement manufacturers against the Philippines seems to be progressing at lightning speed, raising apprehensions among local cement manufacturers that they will lose not only the Taiwanese export market but the Philippine market as well, which continues to be eroded by surging cement imports.

"It looks like Taiwan cement makers will have their cake and eat it, too," the Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp. said in a statement. "Not only have they obtained a preliminary determination that Philippine cement exports to Taiwan have injured Taiwan's cement industry, the Philippines' own application for safeguard measures, filed last January, has been indefinitely put on hold by an injunction issued by the Valenzuela regional trial court."

Five Taiwanese producers led by Taiwan Cement Corp. filed an anti-dumping case against 17 Philippine and two South Korean cement firms in July. They asked Taipei to slap a 65-percent anti-dumping tax on all Philippine and South Korean cement exports to Taiwan for the next five years.

In September, after barely two months of hearings, the International Trade Commission of Taiwan issued a "preliminary determination of injury" in favor of Taiwan's cement companies.

With this, Taiwan's Ministry of Finance has begun the process of calculating the exact anti-dumping tariff that will be imposed on the Philippines and South Korea.

"We cannot force the Taiwanese government to keep its cement market open to foreign competition," Philcemcor conceded. "However, there are things we can do here at home to

address the current plight of the local cement industry and to prevent the Philippines from becoming a victim twice over. Unless there's a check on Taiwanese cement entering the Philippines, then the local cement industry will surely pay for having its largest cement export market (Taiwan) closed to it, and this in turn will contribute to the shutdown of more cement plants and to the lay-off of more cement workers."

Philcemcor also lamented that the Philippines seemed to have been singled out from among five countries in Asia currently exporting cement to Taiwan.

"If our cement exports to Taiwan were causing injury to the Taiwanese manufacturers, then why was the largest exporter—Japan, which shipped 300 percent more cement than the Philippines did—not included in the anti-dumping protest?" it asked.

Data from the Taiwan Cement Manufacturers Association and the Taiwan Customs Bureau have indicated that the Philippines only exported a total of 636,592 metric tons of cement to Taiwan last year, a mere 3.57 percent of the total demand in Taiwan for that year.

In contrast, Japan exported nearly three times as much at 1,868,523 mt and accounted for a market share of 10.49 percent, the biggest among the five countries currently exporting cement to Taiwan.

As a percentage of Taiwan's total cement imports in 2000, Philippine cement had a 23-percent share, way below that of Japan's 69 percent. Korean cement accounted for only 7 percent of total imports, while Thailand and China had a combined share of only one percent.

Fisheries program gets \$89M from ADB, Japan

BY CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

THE ASIAN Development Bank and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation have earmarked some \$89 million for Philippine fisheries and coastal resource management over the next six years.

The money will be used to finance the Fisheries Resource Management Project set up by the ADB and JBIC in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

The project aims to reverse the trend of over-fishing that has depleted the marine resources of the country's municipal waters without denying fisher-folk communities their source of livelihood.

The Philippines is currently the 12th biggest fish-producing country in the world.

The BFAR has warned that unless the government takes action against over-fishing, the country may soon lose this ranking.

Fisheries officials report that the average fish catch here has been declining by 4 percent a year due to pres-

sures from a growing population, destructive and illegal fishing methods and improper post-harvest practices.

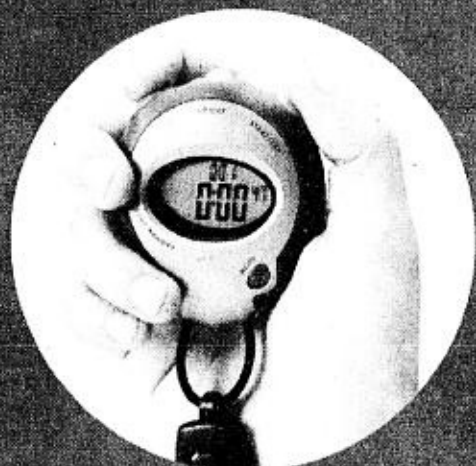
"Previous government programs focus too much on how to increase the volumes of fish production with no considerations if there are enough resources to sustain these fish requirements," BFAR director Rosa Macas said in a forum hosted by the Philippine Agricultural Journalists Association.

Fisheries Resource Management Project director Marco Carreon said, the ADB- and JBIC-funder project would be implemented in over 100 coastal towns in 18 bays nationwide.

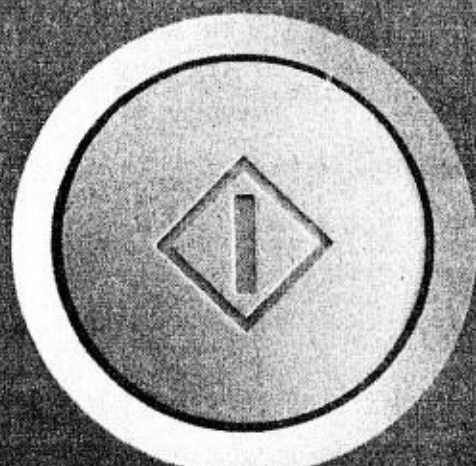
"This fisheries management program has been implemented since 1998. We will soon complete our Philippine Fisheries Information System, which is a databank on our resources. Some 22 patrol boats were procured and distributed and livelihood programs were introduced, among others, last year," Carreon reported.

Carreon said the project, which was on its fourth year of implementation, would allow the government to return some \$5 million in unused funds to their respective donors.

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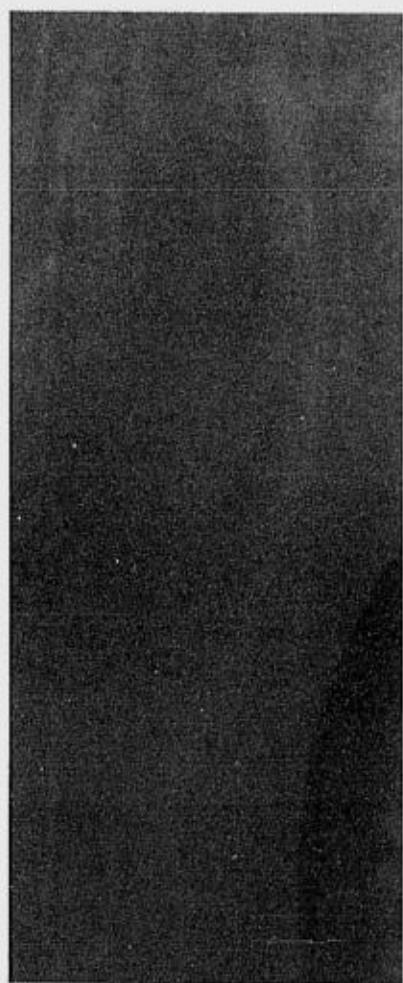
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Eaga phone companies to hold rate reduction talks

DAVAO CITY—Major telecommunications carriers operating in the four member-countries of the East Asian Growth Area (Eaga) have agreed to discuss a second round of reduction of tariffs for calls passing through their systems.

The Mindanao Economic Development Council (Medco) said that Jabatan Telekom Brunei, Telekom Malaysia, the Indonesian Telecom and the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. agreed that another round of spe-

cial tariff reductions should be pursued in the region this year.

Currently, calls from Mindanao to Malaysia are slapped 23 percent, while outgoing calls to Indonesia are slapped with a 19-percent tariff. Calls from Mindanao to

Brunei are charged 7 percent.

The telecom companies according to Medco also committed to pursue a joint marketing program including the printing and distribution of flyers containing dialing instructions for International Di-

rect Dialing and Operator-Assisted Calls.

Medco said that to fast-track the revitalization of the Eaga, the meetings should not be limited only to telecommunication companies but consumers as well.

The Eaga was conceptualized under

the administration of former President Fidel Ramos. It aims at oiling Mindanao's economy, which has been battered by peace-and-order problems and the Asian financial crisis. **Anthony A. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau**



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STATEMENT OF CONDITION

(As of September 21, 2001)

ASSETS

	AMOUNT
Due from Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas	P 598,943,887
Due from Other Banks	2,387,485,262
Trading Account Securities -net	326,766,322
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments -net	780,677,391
Loans, Discounts & Advances-net	2,078,502,714
Equity Investments	5,000,100
Bank Premises, Furniture Fixtures & Equipment-net	34,944,877
Real and Other Properties Owned/Acquired	66,742,000
Other Assets	175,349,358

TOTAL ASSETS

P6,454,411,911

LIABILITIES

Demand Deposits	P 473,329,377
Time Deposits	2,963,485,787
Due to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas	900,061
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders	4,065,244
Other Liabilities	495,212,013

TOTAL LIABILITIES

P 3,936,992,482

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

Capital Stock	P 1,850,000,000
Capital Stock Deposit	315,000,000
Surplus	353,599,833
Other Capital Accounts	(1,180,404)

TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

2,517,419,429

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

P 6,454,411,911

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS

Spot/Future Exchange Bought	P 9,132,043,213
Spot/Future Exchange Sold	9,462,277,000
Items Held for Safekeeping/Collaterals	5,594,419,669
Items Held in Trust	162,538,708
Other Contingent Accounts	1,615,073,307

TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS

P 25,966,351,897

OTHER INFORMATION*

Compliance with Magna Carta Law:

Prescribed Ratio of Compliance	6% for Small Enterprise	2% for Medium Enterprise
Actual Compliance	6.4000%	2.9300%

Amount of Non-Performing Loans

Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio P -

Amount of Classified Loans and Other Risk Assets P 66,696,000

General provision for loan losses P 69,398,960

Specific provision for loan losses P 16,674,000

Return on Equity (ROE)- adjusted for provision** 3.00%

Amount of DOSRI loans/advances P 40,789,747

Ratio of DOSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio 1.65%

Amount of Past Due DOSRI loans/Advances P -

Ratio of past due DOSRI loans/adv to total loan portfolio -

*Amended to conform with Circular No.208 dated August 17, 1999 and Memorandum to all Banks dated November 29, 1999.

**Adjusted for one-time set-up provision

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)

CITY OF MAKATI)S.S

We, **Vicente B. Castillo** and **Agnes B. Santos** of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd.) **VICENTE B. CASTILLO**
President

(Sgd.) **AGNES B. SANTOS**
Financial Controller

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 9th day of September 2001 affiants exhibiting to me their Residence Certificate No. 04170688, issued at Makati City on February 23, 2001 and Residence Certificate No.12010197, issued at Pasig City on February 28, 2001.

(Sgd.) Jose Luis V. Agcaolli
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2001
PTR No. 7728545
Date Issued: January 4, 2001
Makati City
TIN 105-331-199

Doc. No. 2
Book No. VI
Page No. 2
Series of 2001

Technical glitch ends John Hay row

BY VINCENT CABREZA
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—A judicial technicality has ended five years of contentious debate over the constitutionality of Camp John Hay's conversion into an international tourism estate, a private developer said here this week.

Baguio conservationists failed to meet the prescribed period required by the Supreme Court for questioning the legality of a 25-year government lease contract that converted the former American base land.

The Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevco) announced on Friday that a formal notice from the Supreme Court, which it received on Aug. 27, has denied "with finality" an appeal to review a Court of Appeals decision affirming the constitutionality of the 1997 lease.

"This means that, procedurally, the Court of Appeals' ruling stands, and that the John Hay contract is constitutional," a CJHDevco lawyer explained to the INQUIRER.

Last year, the Court of Appeals overturned a regional trial court ruling that stated that the John Hay lease terms were "unconstitutional."

Judge Robert Cawed of the regional trial court here supported the objections of a loose coalition of residents, civic leaders, Left-wing militants and city market vendors, said councilor Braulio Yaranon, one of the coalition leaders.

Yaranon said the coalition feared that the development plan would tamper with the thick pine forests of the 600-hectare John Hay reservation.

He said conservationists, like himself, have lobbied for the protection of John Hay's lush pine forest as early as 1991, when the US formally relinquished control of the military bases to the Philippine government.

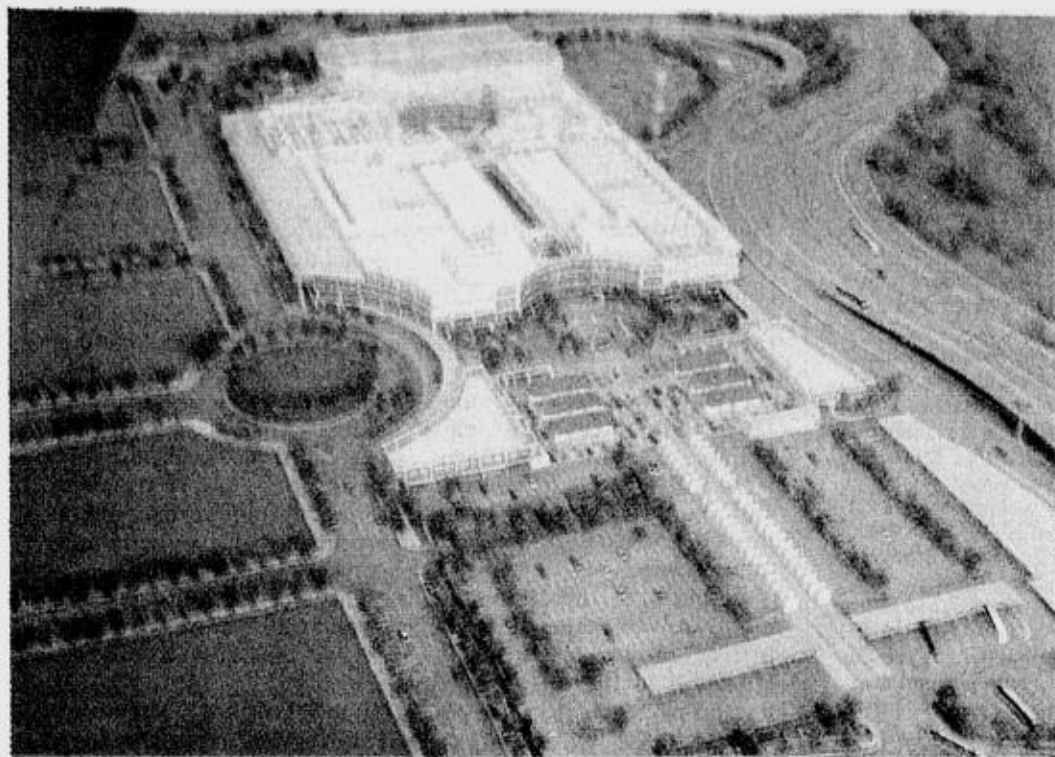
Yaranon, a former La Union regional trial court judge, argued that the government violated major environmental statutes when it allowed the exploitation of a forest reservation in the lease agreement covering 246 hectares.

But the appellate court, in a Jan. 14, 2000 ruling, reversed Cawed's decision, by pointing out that Republic Act 7227 or the Base Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) law already converted the base land into an "alienable and disposable property."

"Under RA 7227, Camp John Hay was characterized as disposable and could be the subject of a sale or lease by the BCDA. Executive Order No. 62 also pushed for the privatization of the base lands, and Executive Order No. 103 transferred the ownership of Camp John Hay to BCDA," a CJHDevco statement said.



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ARCHITECT'S perspective of Market!Market!

Ayala to build haven for bargain hunters

OVER the years, Ayala Land has been known for its upscale commercial centers in Makati and Alabang. This year, the real estate giant is shifting gears and targeting the mid-market with a value mall in Taguig that promises to be a shoppers' paradise.

Imagine 150,000 square meters of a marketplace complete with sights and sounds of a hawkers' hub. It's like putting a roof over Divisoria or Greenhills where one can bargain endlessly in air-conditioned comfort. Apart from having the best value for money, one can experience utmost pleasure in shopping, dining and entertainment, and feel comfortably secure in a relaxed shopping center ambience.

Called Market! Market!, the new mall is being developed by Ayala Land on a 9.7-hectare property along C-5 Road just outside the Fort Bonifacio complex.

Envisioned to be a regional retail hub, the project is a five-level destination shopping mall anchored by a hypermarket department store and value-based retailers that would make it a virtual haven for bargain hunters and budget conscious shoppers.

"In this new mall, we offer a unique shopping experience of finding under one roof endless choices of merchandise that can be found in the likes of

Tutuban, Banawe, Greenhills and Dangwa, plus all the comfort, convenience and security they look for in a shopping center," said Ayala Land vice president Miriam Katigbak of the commercial centers group.

She noted that the Market! Market! mall concept, which Ayala Land plans to replicate in other growth centers in Metro Manila and nearby provinces, would complement the company's efforts to strengthen its existing commercial centers in Makati, Alabang and Cebu.

Apart from the usual retail and specialty stores, fast-food outlets, food court, restaurants, cinemas, bars and amusement centers, the mall will also have bazaars, a fruits and flowers market, and car accessories and repair row. It will also have a huge, open area for those who love their food cooked fresh and dine al fresco.

It will likewise have an IT zone with a one-stop shop dedicated to technology-related retail, interactive entertainment, and service concepts. Features include a hardware and software computer center, a showroom for popular computer and electronic brands, an activity hall for product launches and promotions, Internet cafes and network gaming stations.

By focusing on the mid-market and developing a secondary brand, Ayala Land seeks to cover a wider consumer base. A leader in the real estate industry, Ayala Land has long been identified with the higher end of the market.

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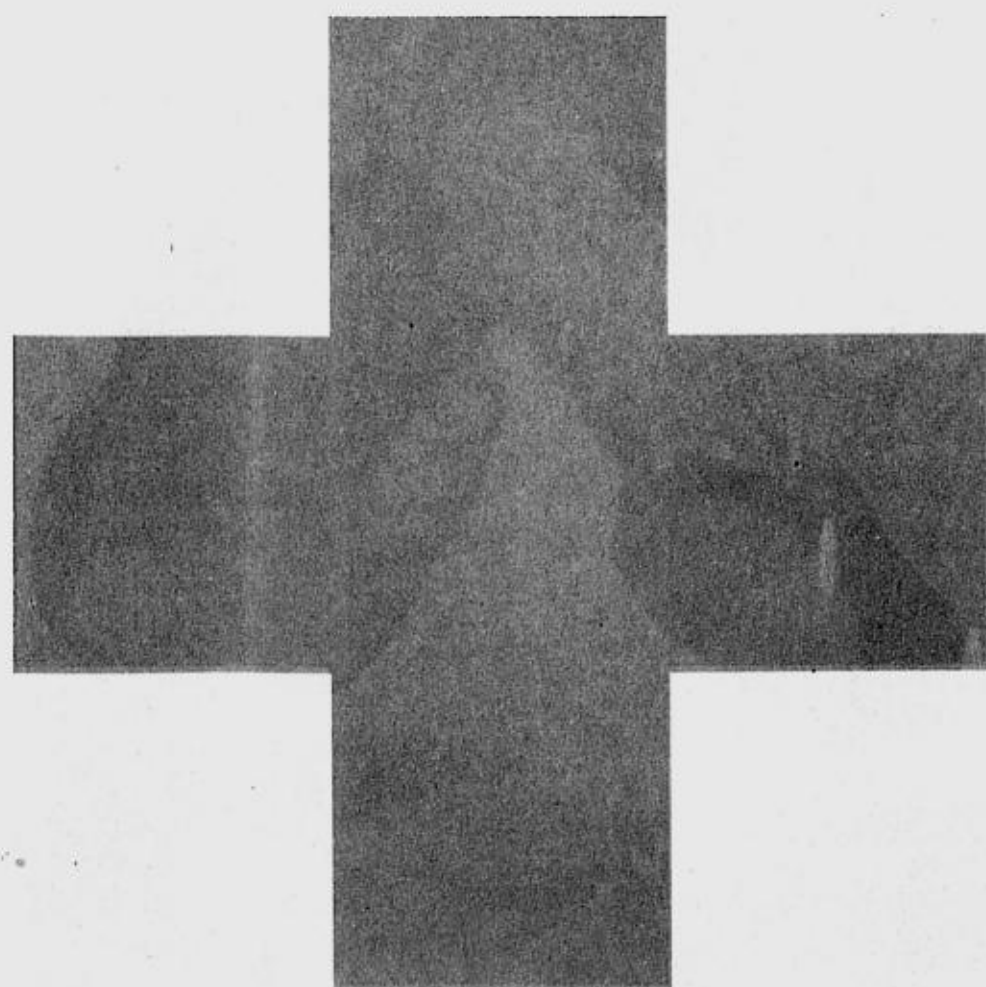


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World outlook still uncertain a month after suicide attacks

PARIS—Global economic prospects remain deeply unsettled a month after the suicide attacks in the United States, with the policies put forward to restore stability coming under criticism.

The deadly Sept. 11 operation, which leveled the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York and left a smoldering hole in the Pentagon just outside Washington, also dealt a staggering blow to an already fragile world economy.

Consumer sentiment was shaken, investment shrank and key sectors, such as civil aviation, were devastated.

In the United States, 51 economists interviewed by the publication Blue Chip Economic Indicators said the country had slipped into recession, a conclusion that was not, however, shared by government researchers.

Pedro Solbes, European commis-

sioner for monetary affairs, meanwhile, warned that the European Union could likewise suffer a growth contraction in the third quarter this year.

US officials, nonetheless, profess optimism. Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill said the situation in the United States was returning to normal. International Monetary Fund Managing Director Horst Koehler added he was confident a global recovery would emerge.

"The idea that the United States can quickly get going again is gaining ground," said Jean-Paul Betbeze, an analyst with Credit Lyonnais, who cited healthier stock market performances.

But he warned that much would depend on the future course of the US-led campaign to wipe out terrorism.

"The world economy is in a hole

because no one knows the outcome of the latest events," noted Christian de Boisseau, an economist at Paris I University.

"If the war expands to Iraq or Saudi Arabia, there is a real risk that oil prices will soar," he said, adding that a new round of operations by Islamic militants "would be catastrophic for public confidence" in the United States and Europe.

To boost morale, the administration of President George W. Bush is banking on a \$60-billion tax cut, accompanied by further interest rate reductions by the Federal Reserve.

But such an approach has already been dismissed by Joseph Stiglitz, who, shortly after learning he had shared the Nobel Prize for economics this year, warned that the stimulus advocated by Bush would not spur consumer spending.

He urged instead that more money be made available for unemployed workers.

"The issue now is how to respond to this huge level of uncertainty, how to build up or restore confidence," IMF chief Koehler said in Helsinki this week.

But he cautioned that short-term spending or a short-term easing in monetary policy would not be sufficient to boost confidence.

In Europe it is the absence of any tangible recovery plan that has drawn fire.

"Europe's economy has been heavily overtaxed and over-regulated for 20 years and more, with the results showing in anemic entrepreneurialism, growing rates of tax evasion and rising unemployment," noted James Sproule, visiting fellow at the London School of Economics, in a Wall Street Journal Europe column. **AFP**

Chinese Jan.-Sept. trade surplus plunges

BEIJING—China's trade surplus plunged 29 percent in the first nine months of 2001 from the same period last year as export industries were hit by the global slump, state media said Saturday.

The trade surplus accumulated from January to September was \$13.6 billion, down from \$19.2 billion in the same period of last year, the Xinhua news agency said, citing customs figures.

Exports in the first nine months rose 7 percent to \$195 billion, down dramatically from a growth rate of more than 33 percent in the same period of 2000.

The reason was that many

of the main markets became less active buyers of Chinese goods, the agency said.

Exports to the United States rose just 4.8 percent in the first nine months of 2001 to \$40.3 billion, while exports to Taiwan were down 2.4 percent, Xinhua said.

A small silver lining was the exports in September alone, which increased 4.4 percent from the same month last year.

This was up from a growth rate in exports of only 0.9 percent in August from a year earlier.

Imports rose 11 percent to \$181.4 billion in the first nine months, the agency said. **AFP**

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Perodua aims to be Toyota's 'distant cousin'

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysian second national carmaker, Perodua, will become a "distant cousin" of Toyota after a bid by its Japanese partner, Daihatsu Co. Ltd., to buy a majority stake is completed, a report said Saturday.

Perusahaan Otomobil Kedua Sdn. Bhd. (Perodua) and Daihatsu are expected to complete negotiations in January over the Japanese firm's bid to raise its 25-percent stake before the start of the Asean Free Trade Area, the New Straits Times said.

"Everything will change after that. The future planning structure will be different and potential too will be different," Perodua managing director Abdul Rahman Omar was quoted as saying.

"Daihatsu sees the potential in Perodua as it is the second biggest car manufacturer in Malaysia, while Perodua sees it as a good combination in preparation for Afta 2005. Perodua cars would be like distant cousins of Toyota."

Tariffs on auto products in Asean will fall to between zero and 5 percent by 2003, but Malaysia has delayed cutting tariffs until 2005.

Reports earlier said Daihatsu, a subsidiary of Toyota Motor Corp., planned to take up a majority stake in Perodua to increase the firm's annual output by a quarter to 150,000 vehicles ahead of Afta.

An end to Malaysia's high import tariffs on cars, which had benefited the partners, would force them to boost competitiveness.

Daihatsu Motor now holds a 20-percent stake in Perodua and a further 5 percent through its local unit, Daihatsu (M) Sdn. Bhd. Japan's Mitsui Co. Ltd. also has a 7-percent equity.

The local shareholders are UMW Corp., with a 38-percent stake, MBM Resources Bhd., 20 percent, and PNB Equity Resource Corp., 10 percent. **AFP**

Air India to fire workers, close offices

NEW DELHI, India—Joining the ranks of airlines hit by falling passenger numbers, ailing flag carrier Air India is to close 20 of its 34 offices outside India, downsize 10 more and lay off 142 workers, a company spokesperson said Saturday.

Spokesperson J. Bhargava said that the cuts should save the troubled airline 210 million rupees (\$4.3 million) a year.

The 142 job cuts were seen as small compared with cuts across the industry, but India's strict labor laws prevent large-scale layoffs within the country.

Offices to be closed include Boston, Montreal, and European cities such as Barcelona, Manchester, Nice, Stockholm, Warsaw, Prague and Budapest. Offices in Washington D.C., Toronto, Madrid, Brussels, Rome, Birmingham in England, Lagos, Taipei, Auckland and Sydney would be downsized, the company said.

The Indian government has invited bids for the loss-making carrier, and industrial giant Tata Group was hoping to make a joint bid, but potential partner Singapore Airlines recently pulled out of the deal.

Air India has an aging fleet of 27 aircraft and employs a staff of over 600 per plane, well above the industry average of 350 employees per aircraft.

Due to sliding demand, Air India has canceled five flights: one to Britain, two to the United States and two to Singapore. **AP**

MasterCard reports strong 6-month growth

SINGAPORE—MasterCard International has reported performance results for the first six months of the year that demonstrate continued strong performance in its key markets and across a variety of measures of success in the payments industry.

From January to June, financial institutions increased their issuance of MasterCard cards around the world at the highest rate in 20 years.

As of June 30, MasterCard member-institutions reported that they had issued 475.3 million cards, up 18.6 percent over the previous month's 400.9 million cards.

Cardholders around the world used MasterCard-branded cards to generate \$458.8 billion in gross dollar volume in the first six months of the year, a 17.6-percent increase from the \$405.3 billion generated in the first half of last year.

In the second quarter of the year, gross dollar volume reached \$238.5 billion, up 16.7 percent, marking the ninth consecutive quarter in which MasterCard's volume grew at double-digit rates.

The value of purchases on MasterCard cards, a key measure of success, continued to show significant gains.

Globally, purchase volume, excluding cash transactions, rose 14.7 percent in the first half of the year to \$332.4 billion.

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professionals in electronic marketing, IT project management, e-governance, and government service delivery.

AIM Excell is initiating talks with various technology partners to deliver management courses via e-learning for Information Technology professionals. The focus is to deliver management courses on a "blended" approach. The objective is to deliver teaching materials and programs in four ways: face-

to-face faculty led education, synchronized or collaborative courseware with AIM faculty, self-paced courseware, and downloadable cases and teaching materials.

Excell's other initiative in ICT is to offer management courses to technology entrepreneurs in partnership with a local venture capital providers. The objective is to impart management strategy to upcoming technology entrepreneurs.

Program Faculty

Tommy B. Lopez, Jr.

Prof. Tommy B. Lopez, Jr. is the faculty champion of the AIM Knowledge Resource Center. He is also the Institute's guru of Services Marketing and the emerging field of One-to-One Marketing. His other areas of specialization include Social Marketing, Development Communication, Corporate Social Responsibility, Entrepreneurship, Strategic Management and Information Technology.

Gaston D. Ortigas, Jr.

Prof. Gaston D. Ortigas, Jr. is the Chief Information Officer of AIM. He also teaches Total Quality Management, Operations Management, and Information Management. Among his current research areas of interest are Sustainable Enterprise Management, Electronic Commerce, Knowledge Management, and Flexible Learning Methodologies.

Ricky A. Lim

Prof. Ricky A. Lim conducts classes and seminars in Information Technology, Knowledge Management, and Business Communications. He is a doctoral candidate at the Marshall School of Business at University of Southern California. His dissertation topic is on "Cognitive Maps in ISD Teams".

Jose Jesus F. Rocas

Prof. Jose Jesus F. Rocas' specializations encompass Marketing, Finance and Human Resource Development, with particular emphasis on strategic marketing, e-marketing, and CRM. Prof. Rocas holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Miami. He is currently the president of the Philippine Marketing Association and with the board of the Asia-Pacific Marketing Federation.

Armi Ruby Marie H. Cortes

Prof. Armi Ruby Marie H. Cortes teaches Information Technology Management, e-Commerce, and e-Governance. She is an active IT e-Commerce practitioner and consultant. She served as industry specialist for DAI-Agile, an organization under the umbrella of the USAID.

Edgardo B. Herbosa

Prof. Edgardo B. Herbosa founded b2bpricenow.com, the Philippines' first free e-trade site, which enables cooperatives and SMEs in the agriculture sector to harness the benefits of information and communication technology in development. Prof. Herbosa has a Master in International Management from The American Graduate School of International Management in Arizona, U.S.A. He is Director for Education of the Philippine Internet Computer Society.

Francis L. Huang

Prof. Francis L. Huang developed AIM's eBusiness Strategy course. He is presently senior director for Andersen and heads the Andersen Manila's Strategic Services Group. He is part of the company's ASEAN Strategy team.

Armi de Guzman-Treñas

Prof. Armi de Guzman-Treñas was formerly deputy president for the IT Division of Transnational Diversified Group, initiating the development and implementation of that company's business process outsourcing, call center, and e-training operations. She has a Master in Management from AIM, with distinction in May 1999.

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- ☐ IT Project Management: Foundation for a New Economy, February 11-15, 2002 (1 week)
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LEGAL NOTICE
 Notice is hereby given that the estate of the deceased Porfirio Q. Cabala Jr. has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs on 27 Sept 2001 as per Doc 476, Book 97, Page XXI Series of 2001 of Notary Public Benjamin B. Mata of Makati City. (PDI-101, 1, 15 2001)

AUCTION SALE

YUPANGCO PAWNSHOP, INC. Pledges as of March-April '01 will be auctioned at the ff. offices: Bk. 2-K 2nd Flr. Galleria Bacalaran Tag. Ave., PC-Oct. 23 '01-8:30AM; 200 Zapote Bacoar Cavite-Oct. 23 '01-2:00PM; Apt. 5 South Superhighway Alabang Muntinlupa MM-Oct. 30 '01-8:30AM
 J. Fier-Auctioneer

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NOVENA PRAYER TO ST. JUDE
 O, HOLY ST. JUDE apostle and martyr, great in virtue, rich in miracles, near in kinship of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present, urgent petition (make your request). In return, I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Saint Jude, pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Pray this nine times a day for nine consecutive days. On the eighth day your prayers will be answered, for this prayer has never known to fail. Please don't forget to publish this once your wish is granted.

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE
 May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.
 Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.
 St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.
 Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eighth day, it has never failed.
 Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude, for favor granted.

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finds
his life
will
lose it,
and
whoever
loses
his life
for my
sake
will
find it.

Matthew 10:39

Our Dearly Beloved

CRISANTO BERENGUER
DE LOS REYES

of Greenmeadows Subdivision, Quezon City

Peacefully joined our Lord
on October 13, 2001 at the age of 66.

His loving wife Lucy; sons Tonchi, Miko and Nando;
and daughter Mia; his sisters Yvonne and Monet; brother
Teddy; his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, cousins, nieces
and nephews, the Redemptorist Fathers and friends request
the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Christ the King Church,
Greenmeadows. Holy Mass will be at 8:30 a.m., Thursday,
October 18, 2001.

Interment will follow at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat,
Parañaque City.

How lovely is Your dwelling place,
O Lord Almighty!

Psalm 84:1

COL. MANUEL V.
REYES (Ret.)PEACEFULLY JOINED HIS CREATOR
ON OCTOBER 14, 2001.

HIS LOVING WIFE MARINA ZABALLERO
REYES; CHILDREN MARINELA, MANUEL JR.,
JOSEFINA, RAMON; DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW
ELEANOR AND RISA; GRANDCHILDREN AND
GREAT GRANDCHILDREN, BROTHERS,
SISTERS, RELATIVES AND FRIENDS MOURN
HIS PASSING AND PRAY FOR HIS ETERNAL
REST.

HIS REMAINS LIE IN STATE AT MT. CARMEL
HALL, OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL CHURCH,
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TISHA

INFINITELY LOVED AND REMEMBERED

14 August 1957 — 15 October 1994

HOLY MASSES FOR TISHA WILL BE OFFERED TODAY,
OCTOBER 15, 2001 AT THE FOLLOWING CHURCHES:

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH CHURCH..... Pasig City	5:00 AM
SACRED HEART PARISH CHURCH..... Kamuning, Quezon City	5:15 AM
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH CHURCH..... Lantana Street, Quezon City	5:30 AM
ST. JOSEPH'S CONVENT OF PERPETUAL ADORATION..... M. Henuady corner 11th Street, New Manila, Quezon City	6:00 AM
ST. JUDE SHRINE..... JP Laurel Street, San Miguel, Manila	6:30 AM
NAT'L SHRINE OF ST. MICHAEL & THE ARCHANGELS..... Solano Street, San Miguel, Manila	7:00 AM
STO. NIÑO PARISH CHURCH..... Tondo, Manila	7:00 AM
SANTISSIMO ROSARIO PARISH CHURCH..... UST, España, Manila	7:30 AM
THE MEDICAL CITY HOSPITAL CHAPEL..... Mandaluyong City	12:00 noon
ST. MARTIN DE PORRES CHAPEL..... P. Galvan-L. Galito, Malate, Manila	12:00 noon
MARY THE QUEEN PARISH CHURCH..... Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila	6:00 PM
OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL SHRINE..... New Manila, Quezon City	6:00 PM
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE..... Greenhills, Mandaluyong City	6:15 PM
SAN SEBASTIAN CHURCH..... Plaza Del Carmen, Quiapo, Manila	7:00 PM

OSCAR V. ILAGAN, SR.

November 17, 1928 - October 12, 2001

Peacefully rests in the infinite Grace of the Lord
at the age of 72.

His bereaved wife MERCEDES; children MARLON and
JENY, GERRY, and JOJO; grandchild JELIN; other relatives
and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose
of his soul.

His body lies in state at Love Chapel, Don Bosco, Makati City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, October 16, 2001 at Manila
Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 9:00 AM Holy Mass at
Don Bosco Church.

"My soul finds rest to God alone; from Him comes my salvation."

Our dearly beloved Papa

Col. RAMON A. GUARNES, (Ret.) GSC-PC

Former Provincial Commander of Nueva Ecija
and Quezon Province

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord
on October 11, 2001 at the age of 77.

His loving wife Rebecca (Becky); children and children-in-law Francis and
Loreanne, Malou and Ben, Tonette and Henry; grandchildren Kevin, Krizzia, Rabi, JB,
Perry, Miko, Kian and Renz; brother Ifing and sister-in-law Ena; other relatives and
friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels (St. Bernadette) at
Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Daily Masses will be offered at 8:00 p.m.

Interment will be at the Libingan ng mga Bayani at 12 o'clock noon, Thursday,
October 18, 2001 after the 10 o'clock Holy Mass at St. Michael Chapel, Fort Bonifacio,
Makati City.

Good-bye Papa, God has you in His keeping,
but you will always be in our hearts.

Salome Cortez De Asa

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 7, 2001
at the age of 85 in New Zealand.

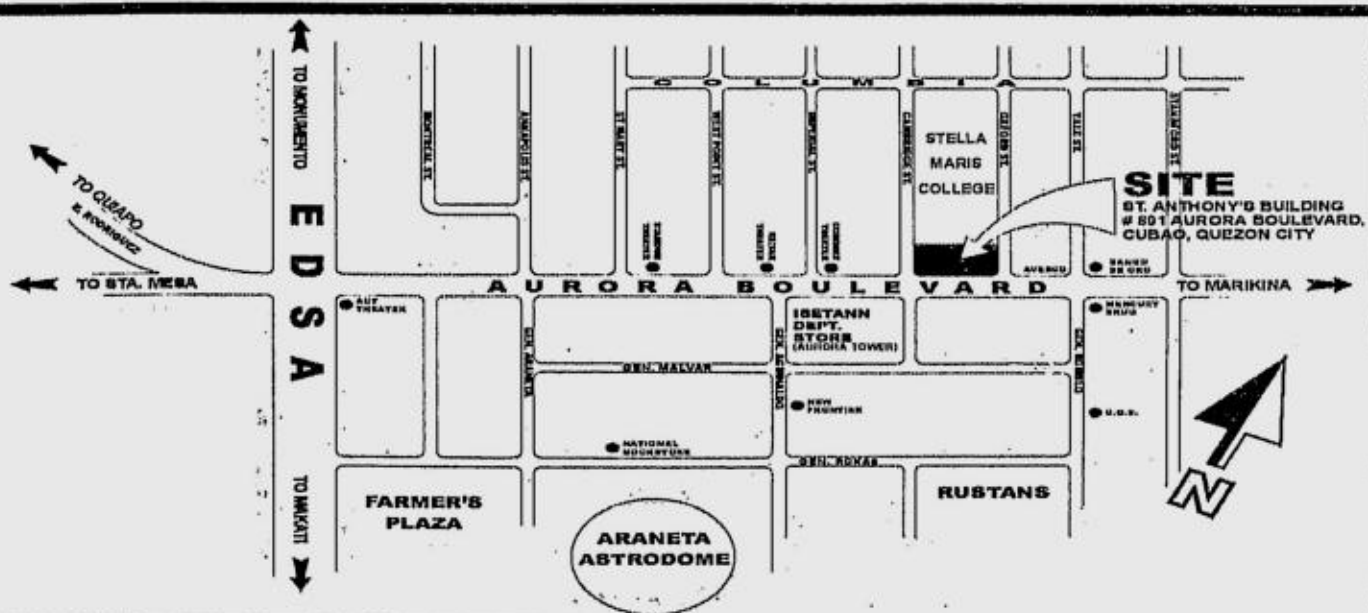
Her beloved children Armando, Virgilio, Jose, Rosalinda, Ruth, Amelia and
Danilo; grandchildren Bong, Dodgie, Bee-Jay, Jojo, Ariel, Jay, Apple, Napol, Rona,
Ivy, Marco, Aileen, Rhamee-Boy, Monica, Brian, Jon-Jon, Micheal, Allen,
Anthony, Chris, and Eddie; great-grandchildren Andre and Jovin; mother-in-law to
Ophelia, Nora, Yohlee, Claudine, Romy, Edgar, Dulce, Ed, and Sean; other relatives
and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, 264 G. Araneta Avenue,
Quezon City. Body will be transferred at family residence #9 Magnolia Street, Roxas
District, Quezon City on Friday, October 19, 2001 at 4:00 p.m.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 20, 2001 at Holy Cross Memorial Park,
Novaliches, Quezon City at 2:00 p.m.

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INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION/ ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The PNOC - Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites Contractors classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as MEDIUM A in Electrical Works or General Building—Building and Industrial Plants to apply for pre-qualification/eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the project:

Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of the ALBAY Rural Electrification Project Stage II (29 Barangays) under Bid/Project No. EDC 01-172

The work calls for the supply of minor materials, labor, supervision, equipment, tools, consumables, and other services necessary to provide electric power supply to the 29 Barangays situated in the Province of Albay.

The pre-qualification/eligibility forms may be secured from the Contracts Administration Group (cag Ignacius M. Corcuera) starting October 5, 2001, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Pesos (PHP100.00).

The pre-qualification/eligibility documents must be submitted to the Contracts Administration Group not later than 5:00 p.m. of October 19, 2001.

Bid documents shall be issued to eligible Contractors starting October 25, 2001 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (PHP1,000.00).

For purposes of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on October 30, 2001, 9:00 a.m. at Alicia Hotel, Legazpi City. Site inspection to follow thereafter.

Sealed bids in three (3) sets shall be received by the Contracts Administration Group at the above address not later than 2:00 p.m. of November 14, 2001 and then to be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC - EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder(s) whose bid(s) is(are) considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

(Sgd.) **ESTER R. GUERZON**
Manager, Operations
Services Division

(PDI - Oct. 12 & 15, 2001)



National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID AD NO. TRANSCO 2001-01

Bidding Date: October 29, 2001 - 2:00 PM
Pre-Bid Conference: October 22, 2001 - 2:00 PM
(Peñafrañca Room, NPC Solarium)

**TWENTY (20) UNITS - PROTECTION SIGNALING EQUIPMENT (PSE) COMPLETE
WITH ALL NECESSARY INTERFACE CABLES**

**PROGRAMMABLE TELEPROTECTION UNIT FOR TRANSMITTING/RECEIVING
MINIMUM OF FOUR (4) TRIPPING SIGNALS EQUIPPED TO COMMUNICATE OVER
AUDIO (AF) COMMUNICATION CHANNELS (E.G., VIA CABLE, SPEECH
CHANNELS THROUGH MUX, RADIO, PLC)**

**SOURCE OF FUNDING: FINANCED BY THE GOVERNMENT
APPROVED BUDGET FOR CONTRACT TO BE BID: P10,000,000.00**

The following manufacturers/suppliers/distributors, whether 100% local or at most 40% foreign-owned are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above using Single Stage Variation (SSV/Three (3) Envelope System) to be opened publicly at the Peñafrañca Rm., NPC Solarium, Ground Floor, Bldg. I, NPC-OBG, Quezon Ave. cor. Agham Rd., Diliman, Quezon City.

- Duly licensed individuals/Sole proprietorship
- Partnership or corporations
- Manufacturers/suppliers/distributors forming into a joint venture
- Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA).

Only Bids within the Approved Budget for Contract to be bid will be accepted.

Bidding documents are available on October 12 to 19, 2001 upon payment of P100.00 which is non-refundable. Issuance of bidding documents shall be from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and can be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Materials Management Division—TRANSCO, from Mr. Winnie Gatul at Ground Floor, Building 2, National Power Corporation, BIR Road cor. Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines, Tel. Nos. 922-8432/921-3479, Fax Nos. 921-3369/921-2514.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

**MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DIVISION—TRANSCO
NPC-OBG (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City**

(PDI - Oct. 13 & 15, 2001)



INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Contracting of Consulting Services for the Farming Systems Review Under the Samar Island Biodiversity Project (PH/99/G31)

The Development Support Services Center (DSSC) of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) invites local consultants to apply for eligibility and to bid for the "Farming Systems Review", a sub-contract under the Samar Island Biodiversity Project (SIBP).

SIBP is an 8-year project implemented by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) with funding assistance from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The project aims to protect a representative sample of the biodiversity of the Philippine archipelago by establishing the Samar Island National Park (SINP), a new Protected Area with an area of 347,000 hectares, and a surrounding buffer of 123,000 hectares. Parallel to biodiversity conservation, the SIBP is committed to supporting and developing conservation-compatible livelihood alternatives to forest-edge communities. One alternative is sustainable upland farming system (SUS).

The project therefore requires the services of a consulting firm to conduct a Farming Systems review aimed at determining the existing farming practices and identify problems and opportunities. The overall objective of the study is to assess the existing farming systems/practices employed by the forest occupants to serve as valuable inputs in the formulation of interventions to promote SUS, improve socio-economic well-being and promote environmental and biodiversity conservation in the proposed SINP.

For interested parties, Bid Documents (Eligibility Requirements, Instructions to Bidders and Terms of Reference) may be secured personally, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00 from the following address:

Development Support Services Center
United Nations Development Programme
7th Floor NEDA sa Makati Building
106 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, 1229 Makati City
Tel. No. (632) 892 06 11 loc. 275 / Fax No. (632) 816 40 81
E-mail address: bc_admin.ph@undp.org

The above-mentioned Bid Documents will be released to all interested parties starting October 22, 2001 to October 26, 2001 only. The Bid Documents shall contain all instructions on the rules, procedures, bid opening dates and other schedules.

UNDP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein, accept the bid and award the contract to the most advantageous offer to the UNDP, for an in behalf of the Commission on Audit. UNDP assumes no responsibility to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ETHELIND B. CAPUNO**
Manager, DSSC

(PDI - Oct. 15, 2001)

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Office of the President
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CLARK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Clark Special Economic Zone

INVITATION TO BID

Clark Development Corporation invites interested Security Agencies to pre-qualify and bid for Two Hundred (200) Security Guards.

Bid documents, Terms of References (TOR) may be secured from PBAC Chairman's Office, Admin. Operations Group, Building 2125, E. Quirino Street, CSEZ from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on **09-12 October 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00). Pre-qualification documents shall be submitted to PBAC Chairman's Office not later than 11:00 a.m., **25-26 October 2001**.

Only pre-qualified security agencies shall be eligible to submit bid proposals. Sealed bids in three (3) sets shall be received by PBAC not later than 2:00 p.m., **04 December 2001** and be opened immediately thereafter.

Clark Development Corporation hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defect or informality in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the corporation.

(Sgd.) **MR. DOUGLAS B. YBALLE**
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI - Oct. 8, 15 & 22, 2001)



INQUIRER

RiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Check out

Q. Why does a chess player say 'checkmate' when he captures his opponent's king?

A. Chess originated as a game called *Chaturanga* ('the army change') in India in the 6th century A.D. and its popularity quickly spread to Persia. The Persian word for king is *shah*, and the phrase *shah mat* means 'the king is dead.' With some distortion in pronunciation, this eventually gave birth to our *checkmate*.

For the Record. The first truly international tournament, held in London in 1851, was won by a German, Adolf Anderssen. Shortly thereafter, in 1857, the first American chess genius and U.S. champion, Paul Morphy, proceeded to defeat most of the major players in Europe, giving credence to his supporters' claims that he was the first world champion; Morphy retired undefeated. The first officially recognized world champion was Wilhelm Steinitz of Austria, who reigned from 1866 to 1894. In 1914, a major tournament was held in Saint Petersburg, Russia. At its conclusion, Czar Nicholas II created the title "grandmaster of chess" and awarded it to the five finalists: Emanuel Lasker, Alexander Alekhine, José Capablanca, Siegbert Tarrasch, and Frank Marshall.

Classified Odd. The world's only acknowledged human regurgitator is Stevie Starr of Scotland. Stevie is able to 'bring back' swallowed objects - goldfish, safety pins, coins, ping-pong balls, etc. -- on command and in the case of multiple swallowings, he can regurgitate objects in any order requested. Stevie practiced and perfected his unusual act during his upbringing in an orphanage, where he conceived the idea that the place to keep his pocket money was in his stomach.

WORD WATCH

Goto : from the Chinese *gu* ('cow, ox') + *to* ('stomach insides').

PDI - October 15, 2001

Mini JOB FAIR

GOES **Onstage**
GREENBELT

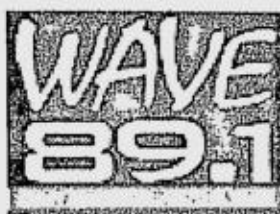
Nothing would afford us more pleasure than to bring you the second run of Mini Job Fair this year. The **INQUIRER's JOB MARKET** carries on to meet the needs of our advertisers in picking the right professionals among the bunch.

On **October 22 to 24, 2001**, **JOB MARKET** will hold a **Mini Job Fair** at the city's latest venue in Greenbelt, Makati — Onstage.

The mini job fair offers packages which we hope you will then consider to join hands with us.



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HOME ADDRESS _____ TEL # _____

PROVINCIAL ADDRESS _____ TEL # _____

OFFICE ADDRESS _____ TEL # _____

TOTAL # OF YEARS OF FULL TIME WORK: _____

WORK EXPERIENCE

COMPANY	POSITION	PERIOD

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

SCHOOL	DEGREE	PERIOD

SPECIAL SKILLS

COMPUTER KNOWLEDGE: _____

LANGUAGES SPOKEN: _____

OTHER SKILLS: _____

SEMINARS/TRAINING ATTENDED: _____

Please fill up this form and send to:

**Mini Job Fair Databank
JOB MARKET**

PDI Bldg., Chino Roces Avenue
corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

aespino@inquirer.com.ph

PMA honors marketing excellence

EVERY year, nominations flood the Agora Awards' committee, vying for a place among the esteemed few that take home the trophy. The decision always remains tough because of the many outstanding contenders from the marketing field. Last year's Agora Awards honored, once more, the shining examples of Philippine marketing at its best.

One of the most coveted awards among the various categories is the Agora Award for marketing company of the year. Globe Telecom emerged as last year's winner, recognized for its meteoric rise to being the number one cellular network in the Philippines, having the widest local subscriber base, and also because of the numerous innovations Globe introduced into the industry.

Among Globe's innovations are text messaging, which took the country by storm (the Philippines

is number 1 globally for the sheer number of text messages sent everyday), international roaming, pre-paid cellular subscription, wireless application protocol (WAP) and ring tones and icons.

Globe Telecom is an affiliate of the Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecom International. Globe's main businesses include Globe Handyphone, Globelines, Globe Payphone and Globe Telecard services, Globelink and Inter-Exchange Carrier (IXC).

Globe Handyphone is the country's digital leader, with the widest GSM International Roaming reach, and roaming partners in 96 countries nationwide.

Globelink pioneered the highly affordable rates for outgoing IDD calls to any country at any time. "Only 40 cents a minute, anywhere in the world" was on the lips of

every Filipino who missed loved ones abroad.

Globe has revolutionized local communications technology, connecting people at levels and in ways novel to the average local consumer. Globe's success can be attributed, in a great sense, to its marketing prowess: in knowing what the consumer wants and needs and effectively translating them into innovative technological solutions.

This year, the PMA will again be on the lookout for another company deserving of the title company of the year. For inquiries, call the PMA secretariat at 893-7127, 892-3144, 813-0466 and 892-3261 (telex); e-mail pma@philonline.com, or visit suite 2414, Cityland 10, Tower 1, 6815 Ayala Avenue corner H.V. dela Costa Street, Makati City.



WATER TRUCK DONATION

Pilipinas Shell donated a water truck to Luntiang Pilipinas for use in maintaining the plants and trees along the North and South Luzon Expressway. The donation is in step with Shell's program to protect and preserve the environment. Luntiang Pilipinas is a nationwide tree-growing program aimed at raising the level of consciousness of Filipinos on the importance of environmental preservation. Accepting the symbolic key is Luntiang Pilipinas chair Senator Loren Legarda-Leviste from Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. president Oscar Reyes (middle). Witnessing the turnover are (from left) Pilipinas Shell Foundation Inc. executive director Facundo Roco, Shell vice president for corporate affairs Reynaldo Gamboa, and Philippine National Construction Corp. senior vice president Ibarra Paulino.



CAMPBELL'S SOUP AT GALA OPENING

Campbell's Soup, America's famous condensed soup brand, recently partnered with Portraits of the World in the gala opening of the Museo Exhibit at the Festival Mall, Alabang, for the benefit of the Children of the World Foundation (CWF). Executives of the Androsens Group Inc. (AGI), local distributor of Campbell's, were on hand to lend support to the gala presentation. Shown (from left) is Marilen Forsuelo, senior product manager with Erlinda Legaspi, CFW officer and Von Hizon, AGI managing director for international brands.



APC UNVEILS NEW UPS

PC users are now assured of worry-free word processing, net surfing and gaming as American Power Conversion (APC) introduces its new Back-UPS CS 500VA. The new line of desktop uninterruptible power supplies (UPS) is specifically designed for small businesses, home office and corporate environments. Built in smaller, sleeker form, the new UPS provides file-saving and proper shut down of various operating systems during an extended power outage via serial or USB communication cables. It also offers three battery back-up outlets and one surge outlet, a fax/modem and DSL surge protection. Shown (from left) is APC country manager Jason Lim with channels sales manager Odette Malong and channels district manager Don Herana.



DIETHER ENDORSES CELLPHONE LAB

Hearththob Diether Ocampo (second from left) signs as endorser of Cellphone Lab—the biggest and fastest-growing cellphone repair center nationwide. Shown during the contract signing are (from left) Monch Novales, manager, talent and development center, ABS-CBN; Diether Ocampo; Edison Anlao, vice president and COO, Cellphone Lab; Amable Agulluz IX, president, ACA Franchise Group and Christine Agulluz, VP for finance, ACA Franchise Group.



BOYSEN CALENDAR GIRL FOR 2002

Boysen, the No. 1 selling paint brand in the country, recently signed up movie star Via Veloso as its calendar girl for 2002. She becomes the newest talent to grace Boysen's popular calendars. Shown above is Veloso during the talent contract signing ceremony with Eric Cuisla, Boysen sales manager (left) and Ruben Cueto, Boysen technical service manager.

PNSB studies represent RP in Netherlands trip

JESSEL Rivera and Aideline Verzosá, former students of the Philippine National School for the Blind (PNSB) in Pasay City, have been invited by Phil Fonds to represent the disabled Filipino children to the Netherlands this November.

Both girls are now high school graduates. It is expected that in their 4-week visit to the Netherlands, they will be able to express their thoughts and feelings about Phil Fonds' projects for the disabled in the Philippines and inspire Dutch society by sharing their dreams for visually impaired children. Jessel and Aideline will participate in the benefit concert show of Phil Fonds on Nov. 15 in Valkenswaard, a town near the Belgium border. The guest of honor will be Philippine Ambassador to the Netherlands Eloy R. Bello III. The proceeds of this concert will be used for education projects of the disabled children in the Philip-

pines. The two children will also visit schools, churches, radio and TV stations during their stay. Nenita Royeca, Phil Fonds-Philippine manager, will be their official guide for this tour.

Phil Fonds is a Dutch non-profit organization, whose volunteers in and out of the country are all non-paid. Phil Fonds has been helping Filipino disabled children for 12 years. Sponsors give small financial support for transportation for the chosen children. On top of this, the Dutch friends of these children are ready to give moral support to children and to their parents or guardians through direct communication. Phil Fonds has constantly reiterated the right of all children to education, and the sponsors share such a view. In line with this, Phil Fonds has also been raising funds for small projects to buy school equipments for the disabled.



MANNING THE 'TINDAHAN'

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and National Food Authority Administrator Anthony Abad sell low-priced government rice and other basic commodities in a Tindahan ni Gloria Labandera outlet operated by the NFA. The actual selling was undertaken in Barangay Ugong, Pasig and Balut, Tondo, Manila, as part of the celebration of the Grains Industry Week and the 29th anniversary of the NFA as the food marketing arm of the government. The Tindahan ni Gloria Labandera stores are mobile outlets carrying NFA rice and other commodities like cooking oil, sugar, sardines, milk, coffee and noodles.



Assumption's 'Old Girls' Day

The Assumption College annual homecoming, or "Old Girls' Day", will be held on Sunday, Oct. 21 at the Assumption College, San Lorenzo Village, Makati City. Registration will start at 10 a.m. followed by Mass at 11 a.m., to be officiated by His Excellency Most Reverend Socrates B. Villegas, D.D. There will be a mini-bazaar and food sale at the High School gym from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Entrance is free. The traditional and entertaining Velada will start at 5 p.m. at the Mother Rose Hall, and is directed by Fritz Ynfante and choreographed by Douglas Nierras.

KM at UA&P

Knowledge Management (KM) is a new framework that aims to track and manage assets that are missed by traditional accounting and monitoring methods. KM will be the focus in a special two-hour executive briefing on Oct. 16 at the University of Asia and the Pacific, with professor Serafin D. Talisayan of the UP Technology Management Center discussing the importance of KM, its more common strategies and tools, and some examples of business results from its application. For inquiries call Elsie Laguarda at 634-2834, loc. 241 or fax 634-2823, or e-mail alaguarda@uap.edu.ph.

Major players at Creba forum

Major housing industry players will exchange ideas on trends and opportunities, innovations, and crisis management at a property development forum of the national convention of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) in Bacolod City on Oct. 19. Speakers on the issue of how developers are coping with the crisis include top officers of Empire East Land Holdings Inc., Me. Pacific Corp., Filinvest Development Corp., and Robinsons Land Corp. The convention theme is "Housing: Key to National Healing and Economic Recovery." It is the prelude to the Housing Summit to be convened in Manila on Oct. 30.

Divas onstage

"Divas...and All That Jazz" goes full throttle with a second take featuring honest-to-goodness, true-blue divas Verni Varga and Bituin Escalante at 8 p.m. on Oct. 16 at Onstage Greenbelt. For its second-in-a-series of City Lite Party Nites Out for the month, City Lite goes all out in a street party with Arriba and Next Level at Adriatico Street on Halloween night (Oct. 31). For inquiries, call City Lite 88.3 hotline at 631-8803.



HOUSING FAIR

All systems are go for the holding of the Housing and Technology Fair on Oct. 25 to 28 at the Manila Midtown Hotel, a multi-sectoral exposition of innovative technologies for decent and low-cost housing. Shown above firming up their commitments and participation to the fair are representatives from the housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, Subdivision and Housing Developers Association, Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Association, and of the Private Consultative Council for Shelter, including officers of key government housing agencies, who are co-sponsoring the fair.



BREAKING BARRIERS EXHIBIT OPENING

The 14th Breaking Barriers Competition was recently opened at the Ayala Mall of Glorietta 4. The exhibit showcased the different entries and winners for this year's competition. Breaking Barriers is an annual art contest for the physically and mentally handicapped, supported by the Dow Chemical Pacific Ltd. (Philippine branch), the Rotary Club of Makati Central, National Council for Welfare of the Disabled Persons, the United Architects of the Philippines (UAP), Euromart Philippines, maker of Winsor and Newton quality art materials, and Ayala Center. Shown (from left) is RCMC president Eugene Yu with RCMC president-elect Art Lising, Rotary Ann and Breaking Barriers judge Malou Cortez, Dow chemical country manager Carlos Lansangan and Rotary Ann and Breaking Barriers judge Nanette Segovia during the ribbon-cutting.

INFOTECH

LEO MAGNO, Editor

Windows XP aiming for more personal eXPerience

BY ERWIN LEMUEL G. OLIVA

I AM WRITING this article on a notebook running Microsoft's new Windows XP operating system.

As a typical user—meaning one who uses Windows for word processing, e-mail and Internet—the first thing I noticed is the overhauled user interface.

Windows looks less cluttered. Although I still have the option of reverting to the "classic" Windows look with all the folders readily available on my desktop, Windows XP opens with a "clean" desktop with

the Recycle Bin visible. This is the default screen. Obviously, Microsoft wants the desktop to look simpler and cleaner—a significant leap from the cluttered desktop look. This new look is called Luna (a shot at the new Mac OS X's cool Aqua interface, perhaps?).

"We cleaned up the desktop so that the screen won't look distracting," Deo Co, tech specialist of Microsoft Philippines, said as he took local journalists to a guided tour of the new Microsoft operating system.

So where did all the other desktop icons go? Microsoft has placed them

inside the start menu. Inside you'll find the recently used programs and the two most popular tasks: Internet and e-mail. But this is the default. You can revert anytime to the cluttered desktop look with a few right mouse clicks.

But since Microsoft is introducing a totally different OS, it hopes to make a significant and lasting impression on users.

"When we go into the house, we want to have a single entry point," Co said.

Indeed, Windows XP looks better than its predecessors. The task bar is

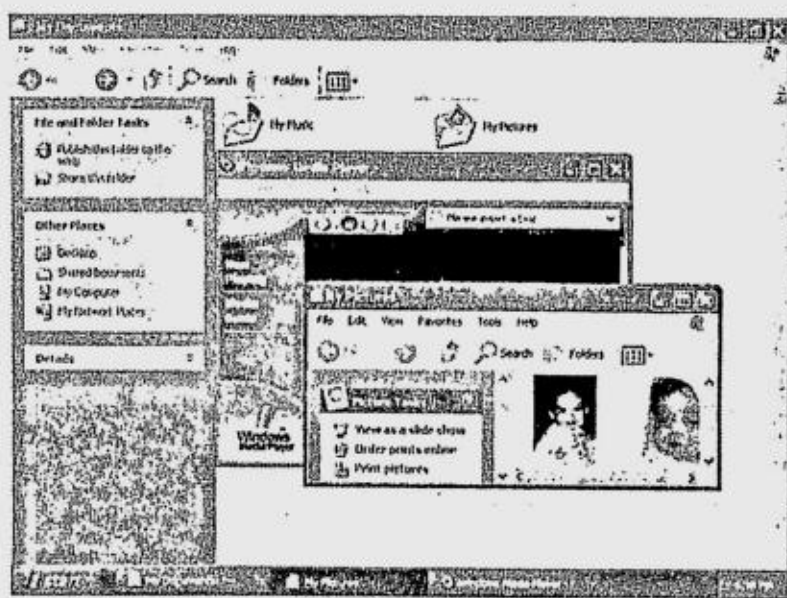
more intuitive, the pull-down menus and pop-up windows are more user-friendly. Windows Explorer, for instance, allows users to sort data, thereby keeping documents in order.

Windows XP's new user interface, however, is not everything that's going for it.

Two other features caught my attention. One is instant messaging (IM). This is an application that allows two individuals or a group of users to communicate or "chat."

Communication is not, however, limited to sending short text messages,

WINDOWS/p.B21



ASIDE from the new Luna look of XP, it even has instant messaging and remote desktop connection.

RP tapped as global pilot site for Oracle solution

BY JOEY G. ALARILLA

THE PHILIPPINES is now the first country in the world to deploy US software giant Oracle Corp.'s latest e-business solution targeted at small to medium-size enterprises (SMEs).

Oracle officials also announced that the Philippine team is responsible for the localization of the software suite. The global rollout of the new solution, known as E-Business Works, is slated next month.

"These are two things we can be proud of as Filipinos," remarked Bernard Yu, managing director of Oracle Systems Philippines Inc.

Mark Gibbs, senior director for the Asia Pacific Division of Oracle Corp., said this was the first time the software firm decided to tap the Philippines as the global site for the testing, integration and customization of a new product.

Asked why Oracle chose the Philippines as its pilot site, Oracle Corp. Asia Pacific Division senior director of E-Business for B2B Frank Prestipino replied: "I think what it all comes down to is that when you have a great idea, it's not readily apparent to others. Yapster, however, saw the value of this idea. So it's a combination of where there was the opportunity and the willingness of the Yapster group. They believed in us, and of course there was the support of the Philippine office. So from a worldwide perspective, this was the perfect market."

Yapster e-Conglomerate Inc., through wholly owned subsidiary Active Business Solutions Inc. (ABS), chose its own group of companies as the pilot site for the new enterprise resource plan-

ning (ERP) solution, which aims to aid the transformation of medium-size firms into e-businesses. ERP solutions automate supply chain management for firms and allow them to conduct business-to-business (B2B) electronic commerce transactions.

Abigail Yap, chief executive of Yapster and ABS, also pointed out that Yapster is also a medium-size firm as defined in the US market. She also noted that SMEs make up the bulk of the Philippine market, and that the firm's successful implementation of the new suite is a proof of concept.

"This is something we can take to the market immediately. This has a clear value proposition for our customers," Yap said.

Yapster, the Internet holding firm of the Yap group of companies, operates the SourcePilipinas B2B electronic marketplace, which is based on Oracle Exchange technology. Yapster subsidiary ABS is Oracle's channel partner for E-Business Works. Oracle is looking at a price below \$50,000 for the entire suite.

Yap added that it only took six weeks to fully implement E-Business Works throughout Yapster, when ERP solutions usually take months to deploy. Since Yapster is the only installed base of E-Business Works at present, six weeks is the only baseline right now.

"Hopefully, we can cut that down further," Yap said.

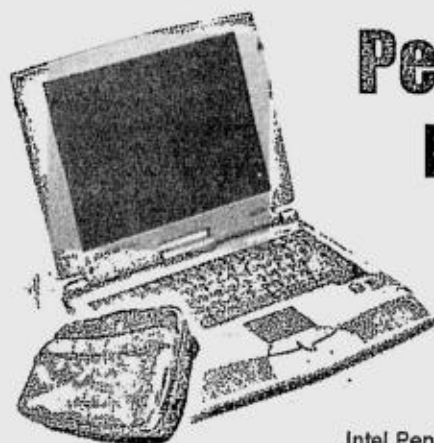
"Potentially, we can halve that. But even six weeks is already an achievement. ERP deployment of this scope usually takes six months," Gibbs added.

RP/p. B21.



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HP sees 6% growth in RP despite economic crunch

BY ERWIN OLIVA

COMPUTER firm Hewlett-Packard foresees a 6-percent growth in dollar revenues in the Philippines for fiscal year 2001 amid the local economic crunch, the slowdown in the computer industry, and the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, an HP official said.

Raymund del Val, president and general manager of HP Philippines Corp., admitted, however, that 6 percent is way below the company's "more aggressive target" made at the start of the fiscal year. HP's fiscal year ends Oct. 31.

"We have not really met our target in the Philippines. This was brought about by the dotcom bust, the economic slowdown, the local economic and political crisis, and the peso depreciation," Del Val told reporters. "The Sept. 11 attacks really had a minuscule impact on our business."

He declined to say how much revenue the company made last fiscal year, but said the figures were in the "hundreds of millions of dollars."

Del Val said that growth was attributed to the company's stronger performance in the "midrange" Unix server market, which the company claims to dominate.

Suzette Santiago, HP's Infrastructure and Systems Group manager, noted that HP tops the local midrange Unix server market in terms of revenues, but is just second to Sun Microsystems in terms of units shipped in the country.

Other sources of revenues for the local operations came from its

inkjet and laserjet printers, software, services and supplies (consumables) business, Del Val added.

Del Val noted that the company has also bagged million-dollar deals with telephone firms Digital (which is expected to launch its GSM mobile service next year) and the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. HP won the bid to provide servers for PLDT's corporate billing system.

"Targets for the next fiscal year will be less aggressive because of the political situation in the Philippines, the war in Afghanistan and the slowdown in the IT industry," Del Val said.

HP is set to merge with computer firm Compaq Computer Corp. in a stock-for-stock deal, creating an \$87-billion company that will employ over 145,000 people. The merger is expected to be completed by the second half of 2002. It is also the largest merger in the computer hardware industry to date.

Three years ago, Compaq bought Digital Equipment Corp. (DEC), a pioneer in the midrange systems market, in a \$9-billion deal which was the biggest computer merger during its time.

Now, HP is folding in both Compaq and the former DEC, for even more strength in both the PC desktop and server systems markets. The merged company—which is dubbed as the New HP—will focus on four market segments: imaging and printing, access devices, services and enterprise.

The merger agreement was announced on Sept. 4.

Government portal now online

BY JOEY G. ALARILLA

A NEW portal at www.gov.ph that will house all websites of Philippine government agencies, financial institutions and corporations is now online.

The site was presented to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo by Presidential Management Staff (PMS) Chief Victoria Garchitorena, according to a report from the website of the Office of the Press Secretary. Malacañang has not yet officially launched the site.

The new government portal is supposed to help the government become more transparent, accountable and responsive to the needs of the Filipino people, the report said.

Reactions to the www.gov.ph website have been making the rounds via e-mail in several mailing lists, including the Philippine Cyberspace Review. Several subscribers said that they had received e-mail messages touting the new site as the Philippine government portal. One irony pointed out in the mailing list is that the Philippine government portal is actually hosted in the United States.

In a telephone interview, www.gov.ph site developer k2inter[active] Philippines (k2ia) managing director Ruben Ravago confirmed that the portal is hosted in the United States.

"We decided to do that mostly for cost concerns. This is a volunteer project and this is pro bono for k2ia," Ravago said. "Also, US sites are generally easier to be reached from here (in the Philippines)."



Ravago said that the site is being hosted on a dedicated server in the United States, but declined to name the US host for security reasons. He added that content management of the site would eventually be turned over to the PMS, and that a local Internet data center has already volunteered to host the portal once it's turned over to the government. Ravago said that k2ia had a 60-working-day turnaround on the project, which began early August.

The site already contains information such as news from the OPS, government directories, profiles of officials and updates on the pledges Ms. Macapagal made during her State of the Nation Address.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
100.00	120.00	140.00	160.00	180.00	200.00	220.00	240.00	260.00
200.00	240.00	280.00	320.00	360.00	400.00	440.00	480.00	520.00
300.00	360.00	420.00	480.00	540.00	600.00	660.00	720.00	780.00
400.00	480.00	560.00	640.00	720.00	800.00	880.00	960.00	1,040.00
500.00	600.00	700.00	800.00	900.00	1,000.00	1,100.00	1,200.00	1,300.00
600.00	720.00	840.00	960.00	1,080.00	1,200.00	1,320.00	1,440.00	1,560.00
700.00	840.00	980.00	1,120.00	1,260.00	1,400.00	1,540.00	1,680.00	1,820.00
800.00	960.00	1,120.00	1,280.00	1,440.00	1,600.00	1,760.00	1,920.00	2,080.00
900.00	1,080.00	1,260.00	1,440.00	1,620.00	1,800.00	1,980.00	2,160.00	2,340.00
1,000.00	1,200.00	1,400.00	1,600.00	1,800.00	2,000.00	2,200.00	2,400.00	2,600.00
5,500.00	12,745.00	19,990.00	27,235.00	34,480.00	41,725.00	48,970.00	56,215.00	63,460.00

Dynamic formatting in MS Excel

BY JERRY LIAO

If you want to monitor certain changes with the results of your formula in Microsoft Excel (for example, formula returns a value outside a predetermined range indicating a loss), you can set conditions for a background color to change to alert you.

(1) Highlight the cell you want to monitor (e.g., sum of a column of prices).

(2) Go to "Format" then "Conditional Formatting."

(3) Under the "Condition 1" box, choose "Cell Value Is."

(4) Choose the operator you wish to use (default is "Between").

(5) Indicate the predetermined range or value.

(6) Click "Format" and then select the desired font, border or patterns.

(7) Click "OK" then "OK" again. Once the condition is met, the selected format will be applied.

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Solons warn vs cyberterrorism

SENATE Majority Leader Loren Legarda and Rep. Jose Apolinario Lozada (Negros Occidental, 5th district) issued separate warnings against the possibility of cyberterrorist attacks that could wreak havoc on the country's economy.

Legarda vowed to support legislative measures against cyberterrorism, while Lozada joined the call to the almost 10 million cellular phone subscribers in the country to refrain from spreading frightening messages in connection with the ongoing campaign against global terrorism.

"Just like any other country, including the United States, the Philippines faces the very real threat of cyberterrorism. The potential economic damage from such occurrence is frightening," she said.

Before it is too late, Legarda urged the government and the private sector to look into the matter

and institute measures to contain the threat.

She suggested the formation of a top-level technical task force composed of representatives from government and the private sector, whose recommendations would be submitted to the President and the Cabinet for appropriate action.

Legarda added that protective measures could include building more secure computer firewalls, closer monitoring of viruses and collaboration with friendly countries on how to combat the threat, she said.

For his part, Lozada, who is chair of the House committee on foreign relations, said cell phone texters



LEGARDA

should refrain from sending messages that will only fuel fears of possible attacks on the Philippines by terrorists linked to Osama bin Laden.

Irresponsible texting was partly the reason for last week's hysteria that spread following the outbreak of influenza in several private schools in Metro Manila, he noted.

He also cited the irresponsible text message that got two Filipinos in trouble with the Belgian police, resulting in their detention for 12 hours.

The message that led to their arrest was a text joke from the Philippines that said "I was wondering if

I could stay with you for a couple of days. Everybody is so angry at me and I really need a friend—yours truly Osama bin Laden."

"The present situation is not something to kid about, especially since governments and the ordinary citizens worldwide are edgy about possible attacks by terrorists. The most that texters can do is to erase or ignore messages they receive that will add to jitters," Lozada said.

Legarda also recalled the massive damage that the "Love Bug" created. She said the potential economic fallout from cyberterrorism could be more than what terrorist attacks in the real world could inflict.

"Computer viruses are as dangerous as bombs. A computer virus outbreak could be as damaging as an airplane hitting a building. No lives will be lost but the economic damage could even be greater," she said.

Windows XP ...

(From page B20)

which is typical of chatting. It also allows users to have a secure teleconference with one or more users in a network or over the Internet.

The new IM offers two-way audio, streaming video and application sharing.

Another application, which I think would be useful to remote users, is called the remote desktop connection.

This feature allows users to access files including all themes and settings, remotely. A user only needs to know the server settings, username and password. I was able to try this in a local area network environment. But I'm not sure if this will work seamlessly over the Internet. That I would try soon.

For all its shortcomings, Windows XP is a far better Windows if one compares it to its predecessors. Aside from a more intuitive interface, it promises better user experience because the software company is leaving behind the 20-year-old legacy of MS-DOS, which

has been the foundation of the Windows operating system.

The new OS combines the features and architecture of the Windows Millennium Edition—which was primarily designed for the multimedia era—and NT and Windows 2000 technology. So aside from being feature-rich (it features the new Internet Explorer 6.0 and Windows Media Player 8.0), Microsoft has grafted more networking capabilities into the new OS.

In fact, in last week's local press demonstration, Microsoft showed how XP could readily work with a PocketPC device through a wireless connection.

"It is the most beautiful Windows we have created," Co said, adding that XP would run well on a PC with 300 megahertz clock speed, 128 megabytes of RAM and 1.54 gigabytes of hard disk drive.

The price will be the same as that of Windows 2000 Professional and Windows ME (home edition), according to Microsoft officials.

RP ...

(From page B20)

For his part, Yu said that the Philippine office would like to see the country as the global pilot site of more Oracle products in the future.

He noted that while the software itself was not developed in the Philippines, Filipinos did the global integration and localization for this major Oracle product.

"I'm always asked why we (Oracle) don't develop software here. It's not easy to make that happen, but we want to first have more products piloted here," Yu said.

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WTO talks seen reversing economic slump

SINGAPORE—Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong on Saturday called for the launch of a new round of global trade talks to counter the slowdown in the global economy worsened by the threat of international terrorism.

Opening an informal meeting of World Trade Organization ministers, Goh said ministers should rise above technical differences and quickly resolve political issues as they pale in comparison with the current problems.

The Singapore meeting is aimed at narrowing differences ahead of a full WTO meeting in Doha, Qatar, on Nov. 9.

"Given the vulnerable global economic outlook, given the threat of global terrorism, the technical differences among WTO members pale in comparison to the gravity of the global situation," Goh said.

Stressing that launching a new round "is a political decision, not a technical one," Goh said the ministers from the developed and developing world "should rise above the technicalities and address political issues."

"Do we or do we not want a more peaceful and prosperous life for our people?" he asked.

The launching of a new round of talks has been stymied by wrangling between developed and developing nations over subsidies on farm exports.

Differences on trade and the environment, and on setting out rules for competition and investment are also expected to be narrowed down but not resolved in Singapore, according to officials, with the aim of making sufficient progress that agreement is possible in Doha.

Pressure is mounting on some countries to soften their positions on free trade to avert a repetition of the failure to launch a new round at the last full WTO meeting in Seattle in 1999.

Goh warned that failure to launch a new round would lead to the emergence of sub-regional trade blocs and "nationalistic isolationism, especially if global terrorism is not defeated."

Despite security threats, the

meeting in Qatar should push through, Goh said, stressing that "a postponement of the conference will merely embolden the anti-globalists and the protectionists."

Police clamped tight security in and around a luxury hotel where the two-day meeting was being held amid a global security alert following US strikes on suspected terrorist targets in Afghanistan in response to the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington.

Roadblocks were set up on roads leading to the hotel. Police demanded identification and checked parcels of mail from motorcycle-riding couriers.

Crack troops armed with assault rifles stood on guard at the hotel.

The ministers will spend the weekend poring over a seven-page compromise document drawn up by Hong Kong's representative Stuart Harbinson, chair of the WTO's ruling general council.

According to one senior European official the Singapore talks should unlock a number of trade-offs and provide hope for successful talks in Doha, Qatar, next month.

Everyone "is in a negotiating frame of mind, not an obstructive one," he said.

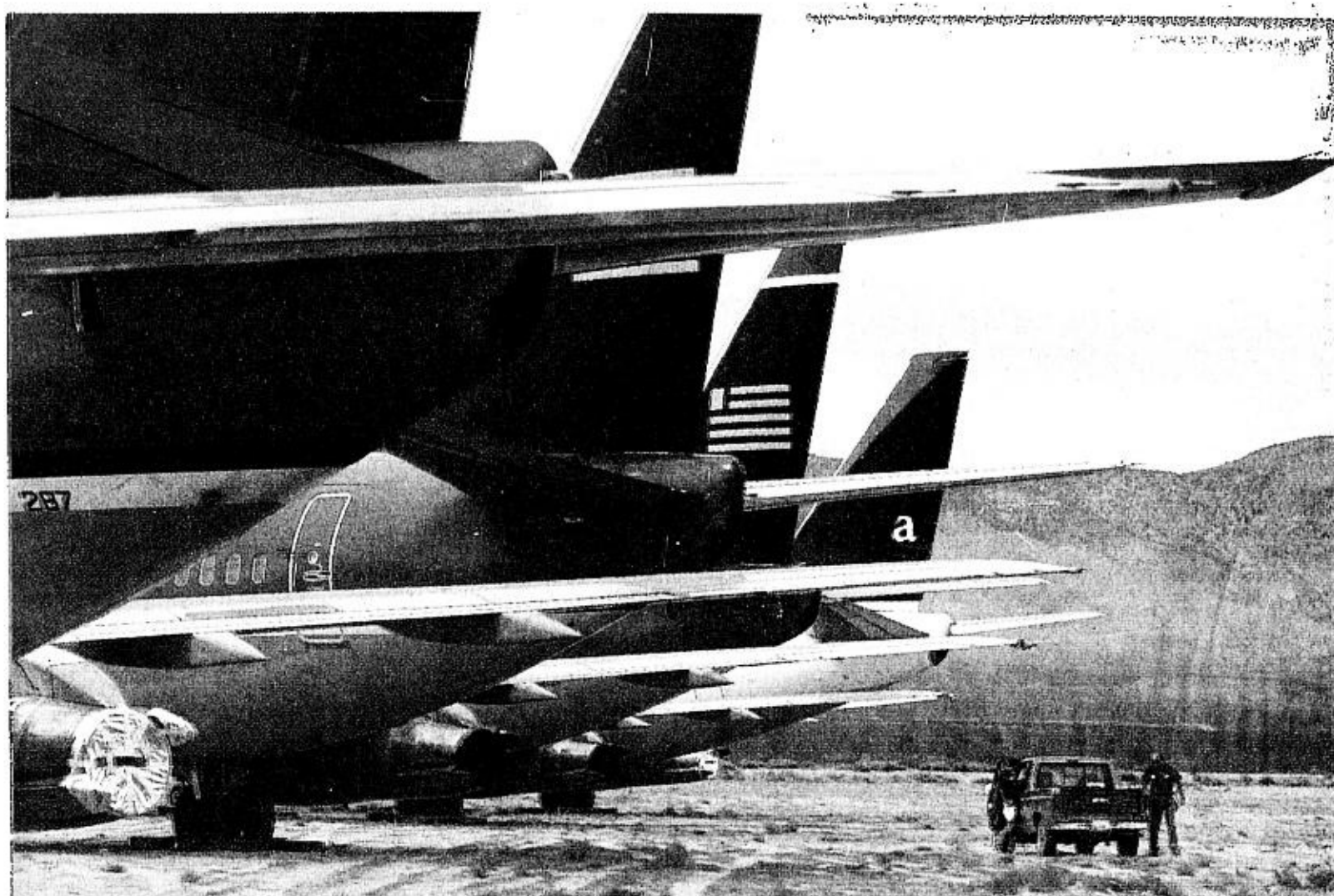
Among those attending the two-day talks were US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick, WTO chief Mike Moore as well as Japanese Foreign Minister Makiko Tanaka and Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Takeo Hiranuma.

The informal talks, after a similar meeting in Mexico last month, are aimed at narrowing differences between rich and poor nations ahead of the Qatar talks, officials said.

Trade representatives invited to Singapore, who were also at the Mexico talks, are from Australia, Brazil, Canada, the European Union, Egypt, Hong Kong, India, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, Tanzania and the United States.

Also invited are delegates from Colombia, Gabon, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan and Qatar.

AFP



IDLED JETLINERS

Two airport storage facility workers head towards mothballed commercial jetliners at the Mojave Airport in the desert town of Mojave, California, where there's been a 10-fold increase in the number of planes stored at the site since the Sept. 11 attacks. Reason for the increase is reduced flights due to public fears and the general poor economy for the nation's airlines.

Thai economic upturn 4 to 5 years away

BANGKOK, Thailand—A global economic downturn and fall-out from terrorist attacks in the United States will probably prolong Thailand's economic crisis for another four to five years, a former prime minister has predicted.

Anand Panyarachun urged the political leadership Friday to "balance hope and vision with reality."

Speaking to a National Defense College dinner, the respected former leader said he was concerned about

overcapacity in several industries and financial problems, including inadequate restructuring of financial institutions.

"Our debt restructuring is not debt restructuring as such. It's more of debt rescheduling in most cases," he said. Anand's remarks were carried by The Nation newspaper.

He urged the government of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra to "do more homework, listen more and pay less attention to vested interests."

Thaksin's government has been criticized for catering to the business interests of its supporters and implementing economic policies to gain quick popular support rather than long-term recovery.

The government is trying to pull Thailand out of a crisis which erupted in 1997 and spread to other Asian countries. But almost all signs point to continued economic woes if not an even sharper downturn.

Anand said several industries, in-

cluding steel and paper, required restructuring to reduce excess capacity. He noted that while Japan has two major steel manufacturers, Thailand has about 30.

"Without rationalization, the survival chances of some of our industries are slim," he said.

"It's not wrong (for political leaders) to have hope and vision," he said. "But reality must be always weighed against them, or any vision can easily turn into a daydream."

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Attacks hit US spending

WASHINGTON—Shocked consumers abandoned stores after the Sept. 11 attacks, sending US retail sales into their steepest tumble in at least nine years, the US government said on Friday in a report implying heightened recession risks.

With Americans glued to their television sets, sales at retail stores plunged 2.4 percent to a seasonally adjusted \$286.52 billion, the biggest monthly drop since the Commerce Department began keeping records in the current form in 1992.

Analysts said the report augured ill for the economy since consumer spending fueled two-thirds of economic activity. The issue now, however, was whether a deep and long-lasting malaise was setting in or whether optimism would bounce back, they said.

There were some hopeful signs, including a University of Michigan consumer sentiment survey that showed an unexpected pickup in the index to 83.4 in October from 81.8 in September.

"We knew retail spending collapsed after the Sept. 11 attacks, and these data prove it, but the extent of the return to the malls in October is the real question," said economist Joel Naroff of Naroff Economic Advisors in Holland, Pa.

A separate report on Friday from the Labor Department showed a surprisingly strong jump in wholesale prices, with the producer price index up 0.4 percent for a second month against economist expectations of a gain of only 0.1 percent.

But as with the retail sales report, analysts looked ahead and saw little reason to fear an escalation in prices, if only because the pace of economic activity that already was waning before the attacks had lost more mo-

mentum since then.

"As the economy slows, there should be less pressure on prices," said economist Oscar Gonzalez of John Hancock Financial Services in Boston. Gasoline and home heating oil were two products that showed the largest jumps in September, but imported oil prices had fallen since the attacks.

The latest series of data—tough to interpret since they cover the days immediately following the attacks—come as the Bush administration and policymakers grapple with how to sustain consumer confidence and keep the economy on the rails.

On Capitol Hill, political wrangling continued over how to shape a stimulus plan, with Republicans favoring tax breaks and Democrats seeking more help for the mounting toll of people losing their jobs.

The tax-writing House ways and means committee on Friday approved a Republican-backed economic stimulus plan designed to inject \$100 billion into the economy over the next year through tax cuts including business breaks and payroll tax rebates.

"With inflationary pressures likely to weaken in coming months, the focus of both monetary and fiscal policy should be on stimulating demand," said economist David Huether of the National Association of Manufacturers, which wanted tax relief.

But some economists caution against excess stimulus. "The danger exists that the economy could receive too much stimulus," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Wells Fargo.

"In combination with earlier cuts in the interest rate, economic growth could temporarily punch through the potential growth rate, rekindling inflationary pressures," he added. *Reuters*

Trade deal regarded as model for Asean

SINGAPORE—A free trade agreement between Japan and Singapore can be a building block for a wider accord covering Tokyo and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, an official said Saturday.

Singapore Trade Minister George Yeo met with his Japanese counterpart, Takeo Hiranuma, on the sidelines of an informal World Trade Organization meeting here to "celebrate" the agreement "in principle and in substance" reached by negotiators in Tokyo.

"We are here to celebrate the final agreement that we have reached in principle and in substance on the economic partnership agreement between Japan and Singapore," Yeo told reporters after the meeting.

"Negotiations were difficult but amicably settled," he said.

A few remaining issues are expected to be resolved before a meeting between Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan on the sidelines of the annual Asia-Pacific leaders' summit in Shanghai, China next week.

The pact, formally called the Japan-Singapore Economic Agreement for a New Age Partnership, is expected to be signed by the end of the year.

Yeo said he hoped the agreement "will eventually lead to greater economic integration between Japan and Southeast Asia."

He allayed concerns by some of Singapore's Southeast Asian neighbors that other countries would use free trade agreements to gain backdoor entry into the Asean market.

"The rules of origin will not allow that. In fact, what we have achieved today provides a building block for something bigger and more interesting for all of Southeast Asia in its relationship with Japan."

Hiranuma said the agreement was the first free trade agreement by Japan, the world's second largest economy, which had previously favored multilateral pacts in bodies such as the WTO.

"During the process of our negotiations, both sides have worked positively, and very actively towards the conclusion of this very important negotiation," he said after the meeting. *AFP*

Relief measures welcomed

SINGAPORE—Singapore business groups welcomed on Saturday the 11.3-billion-Singapore-dollar (\$6.3-billion) relief package announced by the government to help the city-state weather its worst economic recession in more than 30 years.

The Singapore Confederation of Industries said the package "has something for everyone" and that most of what it had wanted such as rebates in corporate and income taxes as well as on rental and fuel levies had been granted.

However, the confederation urged the government to consider establishing a bank that would cater mainly to the needs of small and medium enterprises.

Another group, the Singapore International Chamber of Commerce, also said it was pleased with the measures which ranged from household and industry fee cuts and financial help to the retrenched and unemployed.

"The measures are very comprehensive. The government addressed most of the concerns we have raised," Singapore International Chamber of Commerce executive director Graham Hayward said.

"The measures will enable companies to survive and remain profitable, so they can keep people's jobs." *AFP*



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SHORTER LIST OF BIDDERS

Napocor insurance rebid set

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

THE JOINT committee tasked to oversee the bidding for the renewal of National Power Corp.'s insurance policy is considering shortening the list of pre-qualified bidders in time for a rebidding to be held early next month.

Napocor president Jesus Alcorido told reporters last Friday that the number of bidders might be reduced from six to four as certain members of the committee felt there were "too many pre-qualified bidders."

Six reinsurance brokers were invited to join the bidding for the renewal of Napocor's industrial all-risk policy covering about \$6.5 billion worth of assets.

The list includes Aon Energy, Alexander Forbes, Andrew Higgins Pickering, Arthur J. Gallagher, Marsh & McLennan and Heath Lambert.

"We in Napocor have no objection to it (the shortening of the list) if the committee so rules," said Alcorido, who is also a member of the committee.

He said the committee would decide on the matter on Thursday.

The first bidding held last Sept. 27 was declared a failure as none of the six pre-qualified bidders submitted any offer. The six, instead, submitted to the committee their respective letters of regret.

The brokers said the market volatility following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States prevented them from drawing up their proposals on time.

In a separate interview, Finance Undersecretary Antonio Bernardo said the committee has scrapped plans to extend for 90 days the insurance policy that expired on Sept. 30.

Bernardo said Chesterfield Insurance Brokerage Ltd., which the committee tapped to secure a cover note for the policy's extension, failed to obtain a good deal.

Bernardo chairs the committee in the absence of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

Next month's bidding stands a better chance of luring bidders as interested parties will have more time to prepare their offers.

"The terms of the new policy will not be locked in to the expiring policy," Bernardo added.

The committee is meeting today to allow Napocor insurance consultant Currie and Brown to further discuss the details of the proposed "captive" insurance program, an alternative to tapping a reinsurance company to cover the state agency's assets.

Early last week, a Napocor source familiar with the matter said the state firm was considering options involving self-insurance.

This included the possibility of setting up its "captive" company or subsidiary that will focus on the state firm's insurance program.

He said another option was to put in an escrow account Napocor's budget allocation for insurance, which is \$13 million per year.

"When the need arises, we will just draw from this fund," the source said.

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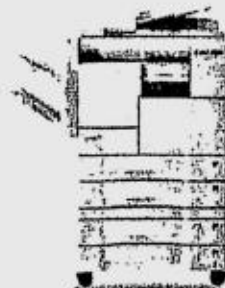
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BUSINESSMonday

MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

Roll your sleeves and find ways to be competitive

BY FILEMON T. BERBA JR.
AND JUAN A. QUINTOS

(First of three parts)

WE MUST compete, or we die economically! The globalized market condition does not allow for protection of inefficient enterprises. Local firms serving the local markets must compete with imported products. Exporters to other markets must meet global standards on quality, time to market and costs.

There is no more time for pointing blame on governance, policies, and other problems. We must roll up our sleeves and find a way to become competitive.

We lag behind

Two major causes—bad governance and the private sector's protectionist posture—stand out among the many reasons for our present condition. Our educational system has deteriorated over time. Many of

our graduates are half-baked, and the good ones go abroad and provide skills to other countries.

The lack of farm-to-market roads and post-harvest facilities has kept rural folks away from the benefits of developing urban industries, and the latter therefore remain impoverished. Inadequate infrastructures such as roads and bridges, ports and harbors, airports, electric power and telecommunications have resulted in higher cost of doing business and impacted on the productivity of the workforce and industries in general.

We have concentrated too much and too long on import substitution and protected "infant industries" long after their "infant years." This gave rise to complacency, low quality and productivity, and a focus on a relatively small, protected domestic market.

Government must provide the right environment for business to operate efficiently and the private sector must get its act together. The government

should concentrate on setting the right market-oriented economic policies and get out of most businesses that are better handled by the private sector.

Infrastructure

An adequate infrastructure system that supplies telecommunication, transportation, power and other utilities, and disposal of industrial wastes is critical to competitiveness. But even the basic infrastructure in the Philippines is considered relatively weak when compared with that of other Asian countries, such as Thailand, Malaysia or Indonesia. Our infrastructures are still inadequate to serve the needs of businesses.

The increase in overhead costs due to inadequate infrastructure will in turn affect an enterprise's capability to compete. Competitiveness involves total cost, quality and the time element of customer service. Our poor infrastructure constrains productivity improvement efforts in enterprises and reflects a

ROLL/C9



'Treat your people like partners and they'll act like so'

BY MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO

UPS-Delbros International Express Inc. managing director Matthew Ong has worked for several firms in his nearly 30-year career.

In each of these jobs, his function was tied to human relations. He says he entered the human resources profession because he always believed in rooting for the underdog.

His first job was with a British firm where he was in charge of payroll, literally putting the employees' monthly pay in envelopes.

After a year and a half he was assigned to take care of the HR need of Siemens, a German firm, and a client of his British employer, Guthrie Management Services. Siemens had just entered the Singaporean market.

Ong was assigned to Siemens' factory yet he was employed by Guthrie. He felt he did not really fit in Siemens because he was an outsider. At the same time since he spent his time in the factory, the Guthrie people did not know him.

"I had an identity crisis of sorts," he recalls.

He eventually moved to a family-owned Singaporean firm where many of the employees were relatives of the family, making it impossible to impose certain human resource policies.

He left the day his employment was confirmed.

His next job was with a US firm where he was exposed to a very different kind of HR system.

"The HR system was more progressive. It was forward, people-oriented. You get a pulse of how people feel. There you hire and fire people if they don't perform. It was results-based, and management wanted to hear from its employ-

MANAGEMENT STYLES



ees," Ong recalls.

The firm was Leblon, a Cincinnati-based firm which makes precision tools.

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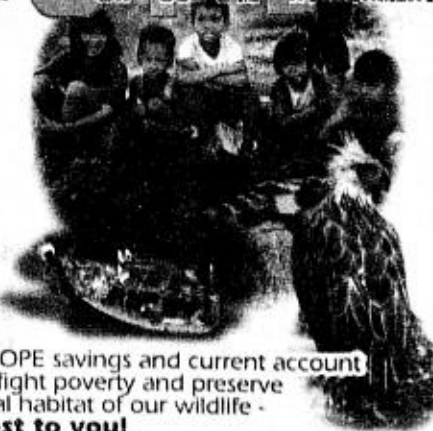
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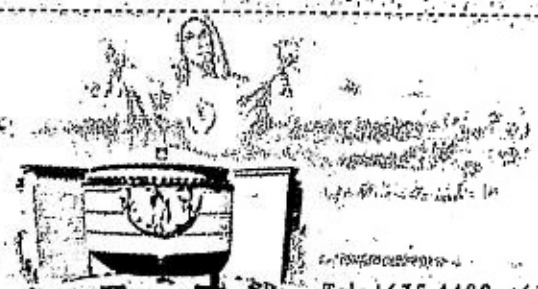
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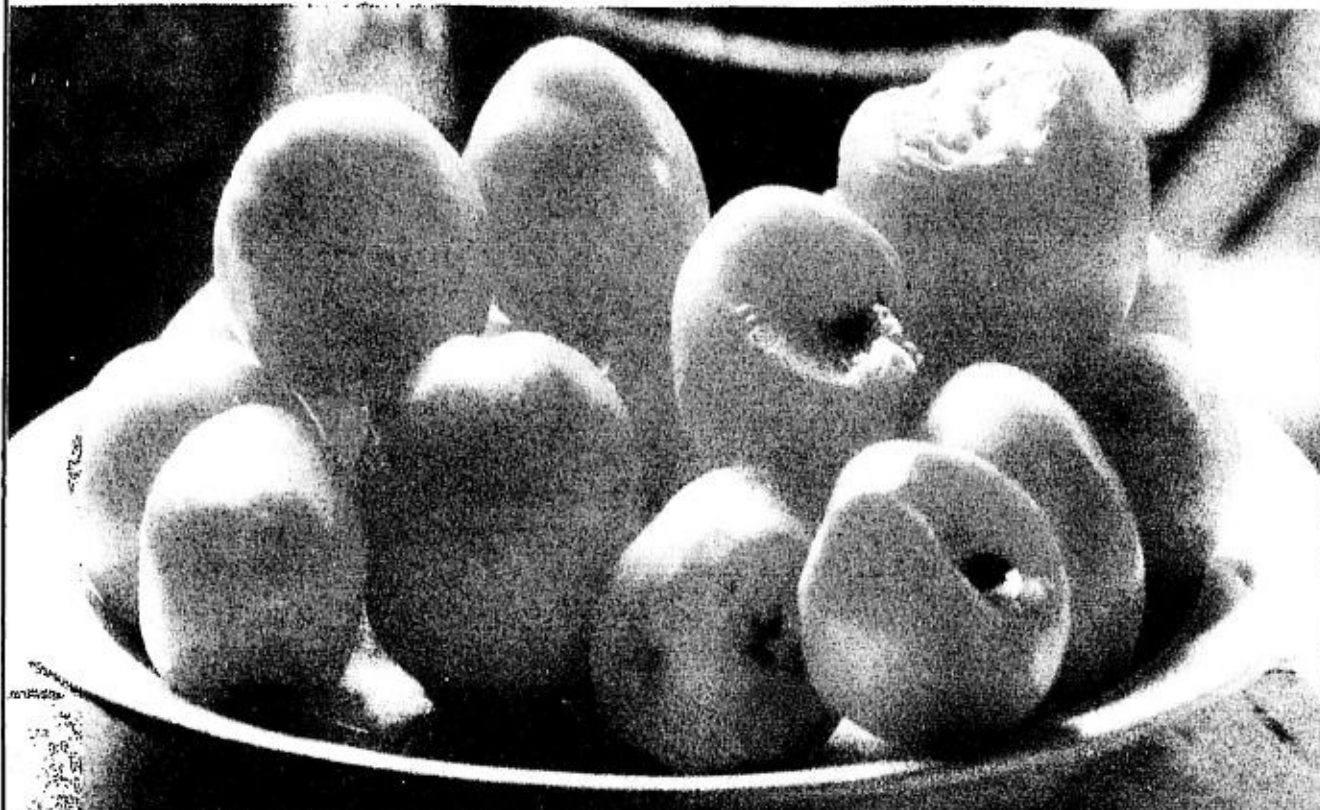


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The long Malampaya journey

(Second of two parts)

A SECOND dominant theme was the matter of risks. Unlike the upstream or the Ilijan power plant, the First Gas power projects would not have the benefit of a government guarantee, in any form. Moreover, they were to be project financed, which meant that the lenders would have limited recourse to the sponsors' balance sheets.

Those fundamental facts would impact on the welter of contracts and agreements that would address every conceivable risk (market, transmission, construction, fuel, financial, governmental) that the lenders, the fuel suppliers, the buyer and their army of lawyers and advisers could imagine.

In a way, this "market-driven" contractual framework presented the most difficult challenge. After all, the gas was still in the ground, Philippine sovereign credit was improving but still troubled, and there was that shadow of doubt on whether as a country, we could pull off a \$4.5-billion multi-institutional, integrated project involving new technologies in both the upstream and the downstream.

That involved a long contractual journey that would have to deal with a number of risks, starting with market and customer risk—would the customer buy and would he pay. Fortunately, the Philippines had gotten well-deserved international praise for its BOT successes, of course with government guarantees.

Also helpful to First Gas was that the quality and acceptability of Meralco credit were affirmed by the financial markets with an earlier project, Quezon Power. Thus, after we signed a power-purchase agreement in London with President Ramos as witness, the world's top equipment suppliers attached sufficient credibility to the venture.

Next, there was the matter of construction risk, which could be overcome if we signed a turnkey contract with a major equipment or construction supplier. Big league American, European and Japanese firms participated in a bidding process and subsequent negotiations, and after 12 months, Siemens emerged victorious from an initial list of 15 of the world's best equipment providers.

They in turn brought in the strong support of the German government agencies, which provided export credits and political risk guarantees.

The matter of fuel risk was resolved with the conclusion of a liquid-fuels contract with Enron as had been explained earlier.

Even if discussions with the gas suppliers were going through a bumpy ride, with Enron, the fuel supply was assured—not just for two years before Malampaya was scheduled to arrive, but also for a 15-year period, a year beyond the longest tenor debt we sought.

MAPPING THE FUTURE



Peter D. Garrucho Jr.

With that, negotiations with the lenders moved forward in earnest. Lenders, supported by a formidable corps of international and local lawyers, pored over our contracts and consents, and rechecked the projections as they assured themselves that the cash flows provided sufficient cover for debt service. In September 1997, just as the Asian financial crisis started to unleash its full fury, the Santa Rita project financially closed in Hong Kong, our \$690-million requirement oversubscribed by six times with the \$4.2 billion on offer.

With the Santa Rita financing in place, the negotiations for Malampaya gas supply proceeded in earnest. Condensate provided a handy reference to settle the gas price, but many technical, commercial and legal issues had to be reckoned with.

There were the obvious, like take or pay obligations or damages if there were any delays. There were the probable, like would there be price protection if more gas was discovered and sold to a future customer?

There was pressure to come to an agreement even if some risks were not satisfactorily addressed. While there was substantial progress, some issues remained open, and the contractual language still had to be tightly crafted.

The natural gas supply agreement was signed by First Gas and Shell with finality on April 1998, and the matter of risks would be sorted in the final major contract. Upstream construction moved at an accelerated pace, surprisingly helped by the Asian crisis, as contractors scrambled for business.

The matter of people

Finally, there is the matter of people. Because the Malampaya project involved some of the strongest institutional names in gas exploration and development as well as power generation, it was inevitable that it also brought in many individuals, who from any perspective were world class.

But more than talent and experience, Malampaya required stamina, both physical and emotional. Rare was the contract that did not demand sleepless nights of arduous negotiations. Unique was the approval or consent, either from government or the private sector, that did not require extensive explanation and persuasion—and then there would always be the waiting.

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Compartmentalize the mind and apply some management practices into politics

JULIO A. LEDESMA IV is the representative of the 1st District of Negros Occidental. He is also the president and CEO of five of his family's businesses.

The firms he heads are the Ledesma Agribusiness Group, Gamboa Hermanos Inc., San Julio Realty Inc., Highrain Farms Inc. and Negros Fisheries Corp.

Added to these hats is single parenting. Ledesma is a widower, with two children—a 9-year-old girl and a 5-year-old son. His wife, Julieta Pek, passed away recently due to cancer.

For Ledesma, however, the bottom line in juggling three major roles is simply proper time management.

The 41-year-old admits that the various legislative measures he was active in drafting in Congress helped him cope with the death of his wife.

His work as a solon takes about eight hours daily but additional work could extend until the late evening hours.

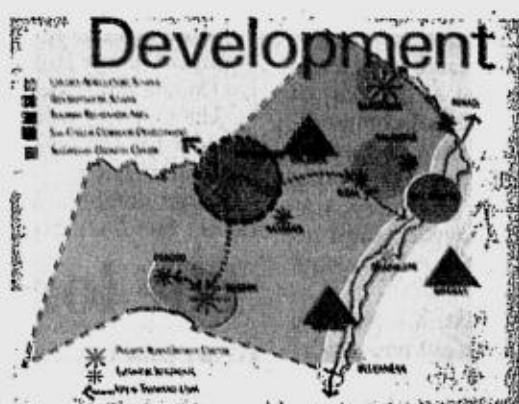
But his role as CEO entails a 14- to 16-hour work schedule during the end of the week when he flies to Negros.

Weekends, he spends with his children.

Any other time left is allotted to his passions—cooking and car racing.



JULIO A. Ledesma IV



SAN CARLOS development map

When he is in Negros, he helps make decisions about the development of the 2,500-hectare San Carlos Economic Zone, the only special economic zone in the area, which contains agribased businesses.

The San Carlos Development Project aims to develop the place into a modern 45,000-hectare agro-industrial zone with a 5,000-hectare new town built along 18 kilometers of coastline.

When in Negros, Ledesma conducts morning-to-night meetings with his managers.

As CEO of the group, he says he has three major functions—setting the vision, creating the team, executing the vision.

"In visioning, you look at what the company will be a year from now, or three years or five from now," he says.

In creating the team, Ledesma says "you build the organization and infrastructure, you get the best people you can afford. You should know how to choose people and where they should be."

The congressman says one function he has not given up is the hiring, firing, transfer and promotion of his people.

He says most of his people are provided with homes after they retire.

To ensure control on the finances despite his absence, Ledesma says a control system was set up and executive and management committees were formed.

Other than managing his time, Ledesma says he has learned to compartmentalize his mind such that he only opens the drawers needed for the current role he is performing.

"The mind is a big place," he muses and besides management practices can be applied to politics.

Margie Quimpo-Espino

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PASSION

TOYOTA

Will America affect economic mood here?

BY DENNIS M. ARROYO

Social tension tends to dampen spending by firms and families. But will a war fought far from the Philippines actually have any effect here?

One way to infer the public mood is to check data on a previous American counter-attack: the Gulf War.

The villain of that time was not Osama bin Laden but Saddam Hussein. The US President was the elder George Bush. There was live CNN coverage on the hour. Then, as now, people wondered if the war would enlarge to include other Muslim nations.

Desert storm

The following discussion will review our reactions to the Gulf War, drawing data from the SWS March 1991 Metro Manila survey.

Residents in the capital felt overwhelmingly that the August 2, 1990 invasion of Kuwait was unwarranted. The survey asked, "In your opinion, is the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq just or not?" An extremely high 90 percent said it was not just.

What about the counter-strike by America? The interview asked, "Is the fight against Iraq by the coalition of allied forces led by the United States just or not?"

This time, a smaller figure,

though still a big majority, said that the war was just: 65 percent, as against 31 percent who said it was not just.

There was a stark contrast in sympathies. Those professing much trust in US President George Bush numbered 64 percent, as against 14 percent who had little trust in him, for a margin of trust of +50 percentage points. On the other hand, the margin of trust for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was extremely negative, at -86 percentage points.

RP involvement and OFWs

The survey gauged the extent of Philippine involvement during the Gulf War.

Respondents were asked, "As far as you know, what did the Philippines do to be involved in the resolution of the crisis in the Middle East?"

A third (31 percent) did not know how the country got involved. There were even 8 percent who thought the Philippines was not involved. About half (54 percent) were aware that the country had sent a medical mission to the area. None had said that the involvement of US bases here constituted Philippine involvement as well.

The module probed opinions regarding the propriety of the

country's involvement.

Respondents were asked, "What is your perception of the involvement of the Philippines in the resolution of the Gulf crisis? Do you think (a) the Philippines was too involved, (b) the Philippines' involvement was only proper, or (c) the Philippines was not sufficiently involved?"

The majority (59 percent) stated that the country's involvement was just sufficient, although 31 percent felt that it was lacking.

The survey asked the respondents if they had family members who were working in the Middle East then. Around a tenth (9 percent) answered affirmatively.

Interviewers asked, "Do you have members of your family who were in the Middle East but were forced to return to the Philippines because of the crisis brought about by the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq?"

Five percent—more than half the incidence of those with family members in the Middle East—said, "Yes."

The survey continued the SWS time-series regarding the desire to work abroad. Those who had such aspirations were asked if they were actively looking for employment abroad. The March 1991 score for this was 41 percent, a significant increase from the previous survey reading of 34 percent in Novem-

ber 1990. Perhaps the people were expecting more jobs due to the reconstruction effort after the war.

Tension and panic-buying

The SWS March 1991 survey included a question to measure the extent of panic caused by the Gulf War. It went this way:

"Last January, there were those who predicted that at the start of the Gulf War, prices of commodities like gasoline, rice and others would drastically increase. During those times, were you (very worried / somewhat worried / not really worried) about what would happen?"

In Metro Manila, the plurality of 42 percent were not really worried, while only a fourth (25 percent) were very worried. Among the classes, the "very worried" response was highest for the poor sectors: 29 percent for both classes D and E.

In turn, the "not really worried" response was highest for the elite class AB (48 percent).

It seems that the perception of vulnerability varied with class.

Another question dealt with panic-buying: "It was reported that there were those who went panic-buying. May we know if you were among those who engaged in panic-buying or not?" Only 9 percent in Metro Manila said they were into panic buying.

Back to the present

Applying the old results to the current war may help outline the Filipino mood. Quite likely, the people feel strongly that the terror of Sept. 11 was most unjust. They probably support the American counter-attack, approve of the younger George Bush and demonize Osama bin Laden.

The majority would favor some support for the war effort, like a medical mission.

Large numbers would pull out family members from the Middle

East if the war expands. Yet this would not dampen the desire to work abroad.

Most Filipinos would not be really worried about price increases. But around a tenth would engage in panic-buying.

All told, the US war against terrorism would result in some modest tension here. The impact on the economic mood would just be moderate. If the conflict ever escalates, the greater concern would be how to generate local jobs for returning overseas workers.

The long Malampaya . . .

(From page C2)

Perhaps more than the other major institutions involved in Malampaya, the First Gas crew of professionals had more of a Filipino profile, in which we take great pride.

True, we had the support of our partner, BG, particularly in monitoring project construction, and we contracted some of the world's best for legal, engineering and financial services. But their work was in coordination with a project de-

velopment team led by Giles Puno and Ricky Tantoco, recruited from a multinational bank and a consulting firm, and supported by newly minted graduates from the Asian Institute of Management and tested engineers from our operating power plants.

Moreover, the First Gas leadership was unmistakably Filipino, and definitely had the Lopez family imprint.

Our chair Oscar Lopez steered the group through weekly meetings and stepped forward during pivotal

decisions and crisis situations. Steve Psinak was always accessible for technical and contractual guidance, and Piki Lopez demonstrated the mettle of the next generation in leading the charge with the LNG alternative and in ensuring that the benefits of indigenous gas would not be lost with the new power bill.

There are many individuals to cite in the other organizations, so let me just highlight their leadership. Carlos Contreras, the Oxy country manager, would move on to be minister of energy for Bolivia. From Shell, Oscar Reyes as CFO made timely interventions on the gas negotiations that were crucial to the agreement and would move on to be country manager. David Greer as CEO of Spex, the developer of the upstream, completed the project on time and under cost.

And it must be stressed and repeated, that every president, from Aquino to Macapagal-Arroyo and every secretary of energy trumpeted the jewel that is Malampaya and gave the project its necessary government support.

Summary

In summary, the Malampaya project reached completion on schedule, because the usual tenets of sound business practice were in place. The consumer is better off, the government is fully supportive, the economics is good for participants, the risks are shared and minimized, and some of the best managers, engineers and financiers are involved.

Let me just make two additional points. What we celebrate this October is the start of the first phase of Malampaya's benefits—natural gas for power generation.

If indeed there is more gas, as recent reports indicate, then the use of gas should expand, not just for power but for industry, transport, commercial and even residential use. That development will be just as exciting for the environment-friendly characteristic of natural gas will be further realized.

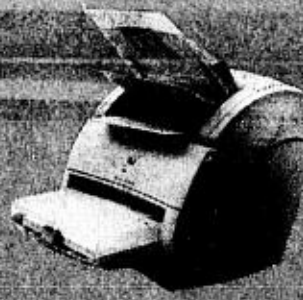
A second point addresses the proposal for the securitization of future government revenues of Malampaya. I find myself objecting to that proposal largely because it deprives future government budgets of revenues to solve some of our current deficits.

Already, we have left the next generations with many problems. Malampaya is something our generation did right. Let us at least share those revenues with the future.

(This article reflects the personal opinion of the author who is a past president of the Management Association of the Philippines and president and chief executive officer of First Gas Holdings Corp. The MAP secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec@globe.com.ph.)



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ACCOUNTING BASICS

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is worth. If you still don't know how much you're making (or losing), then it's about time you get in touch with a good accountant. If you don't know one, ask your friends for referrals. Or ask a good accountant to spare some time to help you in interviewing your prospects. It takes a good accountant to spot a good one.

Whether or not you need a full-

topics within. Basically, it's a guide for the bookkeeper to record accounting transactions which ultimately affect your financial statements. These transactions, which will vary depending on the nature of your business, are classified according to type. The most common are:

GOING INTO BUSINESS

Assets. These are properties and resources owned by the firm. Their acquisition may be financed either through debt or from the owner's own funds. Among the most common asset accounts are:

- **Cash.** This includes cash on hand and in banks. This also includes checks received and cleared.
- **Accounts Receivable.** These represent amounts that the business expects to receive, mostly for services rendered or goods sold on credit.

- **Inventories.** This is a general term for items intended for sale by the business. If you're in the service business, the most likely term is "office supplies inventory." If you're into trading, it's "merchandise inventory." In manufacturing, this is classified into raw materials, goods-in-process and finished goods inventories.

- **Fixed Assets.** This covers various items, such as furniture and fixtures, office machinery and equipment, delivery equipment, and land and building, if purchased by and intended for use in the business. The more common term is Plant, Property and Equipment. Such assets have an estimated useful life beyond one year and are acquired for use in the conduct of business rather than for resale.

Notice how I started with the most liquid asset (cash) and ended with the least? If you look at published balance sheets, this is the way assets are presented.

Liabilities. These represent obligations which the business has to settle. Typically, these are:

- **Accounts Payable.** These are

obligations which are payable within one year. Example: office supplies purchased on credit. There may be other payable accounts: taxes payable, Value Added Tax or Output Tax payable, and SSS premiums payable,

which are further distinguished into employer's share and employees' share.

- **Loans Payable (current).** These are short-term loans or the current portion of long-term loans owed by the business.

- **Loans Payable (long-term).** These represent the unpaid amounts which are not due within one year.

Just like asset accounts, these are arranged from current to long-term.

Capital. This represents the contributions of the owner in the business, if it is a single proprietorship. Or contributions of the owners if it is either a partnership, corporation, or cooperative. It also includes the profits, which increases the capital (or the losses, which decreases), of the enterprise. In the corporate form, these profits are indicated separately under the account title, "Retained Earnings." Or "Undivided Surplus" in the case of cooperatives.

Revenues. These reflect the gross sales or receipts of the business and may be known by different account titles depending on the nature of the business. Rental income if the business is a five-door apartment. Interest income if it's a lending investor.

Expenses. This general classification will suffice for a service concern. But in trading and manufacturing, these will be divided into two: cost of goods sold (which is deducted from revenues to arrive at the gross profit) and administrative expenses (the total of which is deducted from gross profit to arrive at the net profit).

Where are these recorded?

There are basically two types of books: the journal and the ledger.

The journal is a chronological record of the transactions made by the business. It has several columns to indicate the following: the date the transaction was made, paid to or re-

ceived from, sold to or purchased from, details about the transaction, reference whether the supporting paper is an official receipt or invoice, and a pair of columns to reflect either an increase or decrease in the particular account.

For example, if the business paid cash for the monthly rent, then there would be a decrease in the amount of cash and a corresponding increase in the rental expense. If you bought 20 reams of bond paper on credit, there will be an increase in your office supplies and an increase in your accounts payable for the same amount. When you pay for these, there will be a decrease in the amount of your cash account and a decrease in the accounts payable account.

What happens if there are voluminous cash transactions? Then it's time to maintain special books like: a cash receipts book where you record all official receipts and a cash disbursement book where you record all payments made as reflected in the cash or check vouchers.

In case the enterprise transacts business on credit and these also are just too many, then there's a need to have purchases and sales journals. If you get your office supplies and pay for these in 30 or 60 days, then you have to record these in the purchases journal. Likewise, if you sell to selected customers on credit, you have to record these in the sales journal. You'll need this information in scheduling when you have to pay and when to expect to receive payments. You'll need this information to know if you have more cash than you need, in which case you can put the excess in a time deposit. The other side of the coin is when you realize that you'll have less cash than you need for the coming months. But then anticipating is better than reacting to a bad situation.

And the general journal? It's the place to record non-cash transactions. Examples: Prepaid insurance (the premium of which was paid for a year) would have to be adjusted every month or every quarter to reflect the insurance expense. Office supplies purchased in bulk would have to be adjusted to recognize what were used for the month.

The entries are then transferred to the general ledger, which summarizes the transactions in the cash receipts

book, cash disbursements book, the sales and purchases books, and in the general journal. The ledger has account titles used in the income statement and balance sheet. But if you want to know who owes you and how much and to whom you know and how much, subsidiary ledgers are a must for control purposes.

Once the amounts are obtained for each account, it's the time to come up with the trial balance which has two columns and whose grand totals must equal. If they don't, something is wrong somewhere. But when these do, then your accountant can come up with:

- The income statement, which tells you whether your business made a profit or suffered a loss for a particular period, say a month, a quarter, or a year and

- The balance sheet, which shows you what the business owns and owes as of a given date.

The source documents

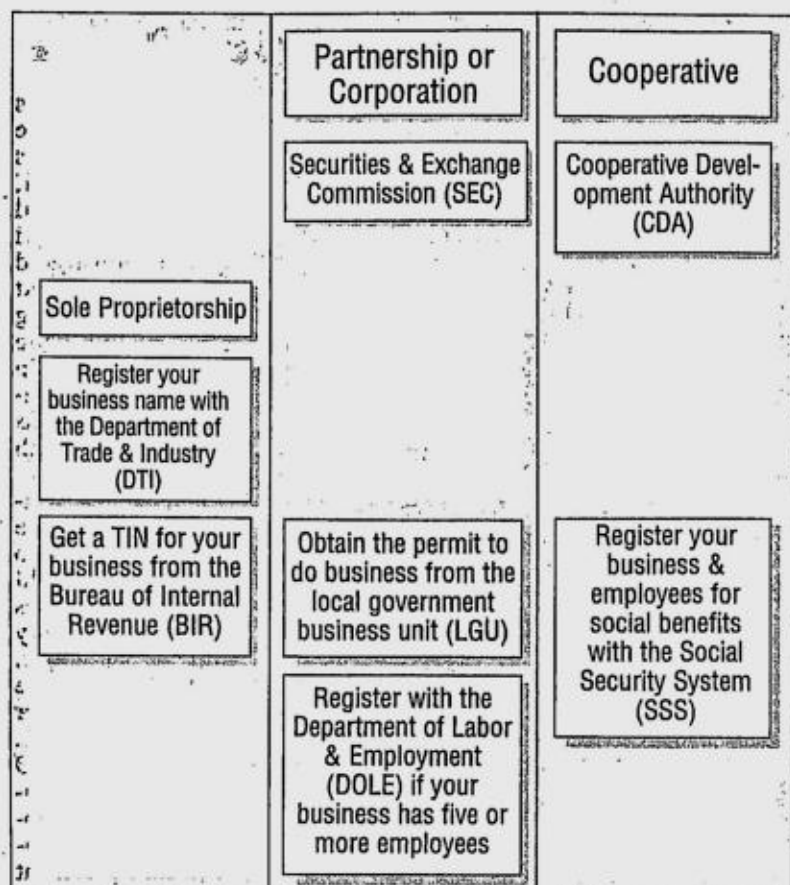
and how they flow

Let's backtrack a bit. When transactions are recorded, these are based on documentary evidence, like sales invoices, supplier's invoices, official receipts and purchase orders. A bookkeeper cannot record a transaction based on hearsay or verbal instructions.

When a business receives payments, normally it issues official receipts—unless it's in the wet market or "tiangge" or along the sidewalk. When the business makes payments, there must be supporting papers to warrant such payments. I've seen instances when a company paid its suppliers twice for the same delivery because of a faulty system.

Rather than go into details, a business would have to record its transactions through a series of steps as indicated in the diagram. Bear in mind that not all of the supporting papers and source documents indicated are needed in your business. You may need more or you may need less. What's important is that it provides the information you need.

So if you still don't know what's happening to your business or it's taking you an awfully long time to know, better do something about it. Better yet do it soon. Remember, ignorance or neglect can be very expensive.



This is just the general flow. I've spared you the details of the registration requirements, which you can get by paying each of these offices a visit.

Before (or even after) you do, have you been keeping track of your costs and expenses? No? Then I hope you have been keeping your receipts. Because it's about time you know how much your business

time accountant (depending on the level of your operations), you'll have to spend some time giving a briefing on how you conduct your business. This is the only way an accountant can come up with the chart of accounts suitable for your business.

What is the chart of accounts?

This is similar to a book's table of contents that lists chapters and

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Expensive prawns soon to be within reach of farmers

BY ANSELMO ROQUE
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ— The savory but expensive freshwater prawn may soon be within the easy reach of ordinary farmers through rice-prawn farming.

This shrimp-like crustacean, called *ulang* in Tagalog and *udang* in Ilocano, used to abound in rivers and other big bodies of inland waters but has now become rare. In the market, it costs P300 or more a kilo.

Successful researches in the breeding and post larvae production of freshwater prawns in captivity have given bright hopes for the commercial production of this crustacean.

Melchor Tayamen, chief of the National Freshwater Fisheries Technology Center of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources here, said models of rice-prawn farming have now

been established in various regions for farmers to see and appreciate this type of farming.

Most of the models are established in 1,000-square-meter areas in pilot sites.

Tayamen said the NFFTC has already conducted three batches of training for fisheries technicians on the aspect of larval rearing of giant freshwater prawn. The target production of prawn larvae this year, he said, is half a million.

Batches of training were also conducted for operators of rice-prawn farming.

Tayamen, who is the leader of the team that conducted research on freshwater prawn, said he has a directive from BFAR Director Malcolm Sarmiento to increase production of prawn larvae to a million next year. This, he said, will enable interested farmers to go on rice-prawn farming.

Scientists of the Freshwater Aquaculture Center of the Central Luzon State University here started the re-

search on freshwater prawn in the early 1980s.

Findings generated in that research were later used in the NFFTC research that later developed the protocol for the production of larvae of the freshwater prawn in captivity.

Special quality of water is used for the production of larvae of prawns in captivity. A 20-gram prawn breeder is said to produce about 20,000 larvae.

Tayamen said during the initial stages of the production of larvae, only up to about 15 percent survival rate was noted.

Through continuous studies, he said, the survival rate has now gone up to 70 percent. This development, he added, boosted the prospect for commercial production of freshwater prawn in the country.

Research studies have also resulted in the development of the package of technology for rice-prawn farming.

In rice-prawn farming, Tayamen said, one-tenth of a hectare of rice land is set aside for prawn culture. This spe-

cial area, called the prawn refuge, is excavated to a depth of one to one-and-a-half meters. It is provided with screened water inlet and outlet.

He said four to five larvae could be stocked in one square meter area in semi-intensive culture of prawn.

Culture of prawns in rice-prawn farming is five to seven months, but selective harvesting can already be done after three to four months. The prawns are given supplemental feeding for better and faster growth while they are being raised in the farm.

Proper culture of rice while it is done along with the growing of prawns is included in the package of technology.

Tayamen said the NFFTC here is ready to give technical assistance to those who are interested in engaging in rice-prawn farming.

He hopes that soon, experts will perfect the technology for the production of prawn larvae to supply the needs of farmers who may be encouraged to go into rice-prawn farming.



THIS shrimp-like crustacean, called *ulang* in Tagalog and *udang* in Ilocano, used to abound in rivers and other big bodies of inland waters but has now become rare. In the market, it costs P300 or more a kilo.

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ONG

'Treat your people like partners and they'll act like so'

(From page C1)

At that time Singapore was in a situation where there were more jobs than people, according to Ong. To address the high-employee turnover, Leblon drew up an apprenticeship program which got young Singaporeans before they went off to the required military school.

Ong says he learned a lot from Leblon but eventually he was pirated by an oil and gas firm, Hydrex.

In 1990, he joined UPS, as division manager responsible for human resources in the south district, Asia Pacific region. UPS is the largest package delivery company in the world, best known for its ubiquitous brown trucks.

Ong says they got him because of his HR skills and his experience with diverse nationalities. At that time he already had 18 years of exposure to HR.

He was tapped to "UPSize" the Asian operations. UPS had adopted a strategy of acquiring local courier firms in Asia.

"It was the fastest way to penetrate the Asian market," Ong explains.

The strategy however needed a good HR program to orient the new firms into the UPS culture.

"We had to ensure there was a common corporate culture. This meant the HR people had to be UPS. We had to take over different corporate culture. There had to be cultural integration."

UPS had bought into courier firms in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, India and Australia.

"It was a challenging job but it wasn't that difficult. There were no major stumbling blocks," he says.

He attributes this to the mindset of the UPS owner.

"The leadership was focused to get it (integration) done above all things," says Ong.

He says the concept of partnership was imparted to the people.

"The emphasis to managers is that they are not employees of the company but partners in business," Ong explains.

The rationale for this is if you treat people like employees, they will act like employees. If you treat them like partners they will feel like partners. Managers of UPS are entitled to get stocks of the firm which went public in the United States a few years ago.

Prior to its move to acquire local firms in Asia, UPS had agent relations in various countries such as the Philippines.

In Manila UPS had a tie-up with initially an agent relations with Delbros.

But in 1997, UPS wanted to go beyond an agent relations and went into a joint venture with Delbros.

The same strategy was done in Korea and Japan. Again the HR issue cropped up—should UPS UPSize the joint venture? What will happen to the culture of the partner firms?

"We were sensitive to the Delbros corporate culture. If it becomes too edged out, that might be disrespectful. So we had dialogue sessions with Delbros."

The local group however was open to the nuances of UPS and agreed to the venture.

"UPS officials came down here every other month to train and focus the mindsets of the people, get them to understand the UPS culture."

The UPS jargon and culture were internalized. Ong practices a collaborative style of management which he attributes to his background in human resources development. He believes in letting the people around him to develop corporate initiatives as a way of getting things done.

He has always insisted that his managers decide about matters within their specific areas of responsibility.

MOVEMENTS

New Chinatrust prexy

VETERAN banker Joey A. Bermudez was formally appointed as president and director of Chinatrust (Philippines) Commercial Bank Corp. effective Oct. 15. Bermudez replaced William B. Go, who was promoted to vice chair.

Bermudez brings with him to Chinatrust a wealth of knowledge and experience accumulated from a career in banking spanning 25 years. He has also received extensive training overseas in the fields of general management, retail banking, corporate banking, development finance, credit risk management and financial controllership.

He was chief operating officer of PSBank, a member of the Metrobank Group, before moving to Chinatrust. In the past, he has also worked with Standard Chartered Bank and the Philippine Commercial International Bank (now Equitable-PCI Bank) where he stayed for 14 years. In the last seven years, he was focused on retail and consumer banking.

In the corporate banking business, Bermudez earned distinction for formulating and successfully executing financing programs and risk-mitigation schemes for medium-sized enterprises, agribusiness projects, exporters, small businesses, medium-low-cost housing developers, local governments and countryside enterprises.

Bermudez is a certified public accountant and has completed the Strategic Business Economics Program of the University of Asia and the Pacific. He also holds masters degrees in Business Administration and Business Economics.

In his spare time, Bermudez spends time with his five children (four sons and a daughter) and wife, Ester Quizon Villa. He also jogs, works out, and plays "high-handicap" golf. He is active in rotary activities and is involved in two non-government organizations.



BERMUDEZ

Diversification is the key to conglomerate's success

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Old and strong could best describe the Pampanga Sugar Development Corp. (Pasudeco) conglomerate.

The secret of its endurance is in diversification and in its core value of deep faith in the Kapampangans' capacity to rise from adversities.

Jesus Lazatin, a scion of one of the five founding families, emphasized those two trademarks with mixed pride and pain.

"We have never lost faith in the province we have wholeheartedly called our home. Despite being shaken by numerous tides of misfortunes, the conglomerate has chosen to face its challenges head on, and to aspire for better business anew," he said.

Pasudeco—the conglomerate's soul company established by the Lazatin, De Leon, Escaler, Panlilio and Rodriguez families in 1921—has outlived World War II and the debacles of the sugar industry.

The last 10 years put the conglomerate to even tougher tests. The eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in 1991 stripped some 650,000 Kapampangans of the land they valued.

The yearly deluge of lahar until 1997 buried wide plains of sugarcane that positioned the province since the early 1930s on top of the sugar industry.

The aftermath of the withdrawal of the United States from Clark Air Base, then one of the major employers in the province, left more than 30,000 people without work.

Spun into the depths of depression, the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, although a noble plan, caused further devastation to Pampanga's traditionally successful sugar industry.

With CARP, the once productive vast sugar lands were reduced to idleness because the sudden turnover of lands to the farmers created a host of problems, foremost of which are financing, support services and farm supervision.

While the province was on its

way to recovering from the string of calamities, the Asian financial crisis unleashed its wrath on local businesses.

The heirs—Michael Escaler, Lazatin and Cristino Panlilio—took fate in stride.

Although cynics barraged the three with discouraging opinions, Lazatin said they decided to continue the then 70-year-old mill amid losing operations.

According to Escaler, the conglomerate pumped nearly P100 million of fresh capital to rehabilitate the sugar mill damaged by lahar and floods.

Another P100 million was sourced to repay the Philippine National Bank for capital loans that could no longer be paid from normal operating funds because by then the volume of sugar cane for milling was vastly depleted.

By 1996, planters began cultivating the lands spared by lahar. While sugarcane production increased over time, the volume was definitely lesser compared to previous decades. Pasudeco is now the only sugar mill left in Pampanga. It is operated by the firm Basecom.

"To have not done it would have orphaned Pampanga planters of a much-needed mill," Lazatin said.

While maintaining the mill, the conglomerate ventured into three major thrusts.

In the sugar-related business, it has the All Asian Countertrade Inc. (ACCI), ACCI Farms, ACCI Transport and its newest addition, the Sweet Crystals Sugar Mill (SCSM). New York University-schooled Escaler leads all these subsidiaries.

ACCI trades in sugar not only from Pasudeco but also from other mills all over the Philippines. It is a major supplier of sugar to leading food and beverage manufacturers. It is also one of the largest importers and exporters of sugar products in the country.

ACCI is among the country's 150 top corporations.

ACCI Farms operates the sugar farms owned by the conglomerate.

Its main thrust is modernizing planting operations not only for itself but for other sugar planters as well. Australian sugar technicians assist the ACCI Farms.

ACCI Transport serves the trucking requirements of different food and beverage manufacturers in the country.

The SCSM, a P600-million sugar mill and refinery in lahar-buried Porac town, is the conglomerate's newest endeavor. Escaler said the SCSM has become the "symbolic torchbearer of the strategic vision of the conglomerate, and a powerful reminder of Pasudeco's lasting faith in Pampanga as an agricultural stronghold."

The new mill, to be inaugurated this November, would supplement ACCI's trading operations, he said.

Putting a huge slice of its capital on SCSM, Escaler said it was the conglomerate's "hardcore commitment to Pampanga."

Lazatin heads the conglomerate's electric distribution business in the city. Since the 1950s, he has steered the San Fernando Electric Corp. (SFELAPCO) into becoming the seventh largest privately owned and operated electric company in the country.

SFELAPCO, according to an industry report, holds the distinction of having the lowest line loss record among electric distributors in the country today.

To improve the corporation's competencies, the conglomerate recently sealed its partnership with the Aboitiz Group.

The conglomerate also established a cable TV provider company, using SFELAPCO's power distribution grid to connect to its subscribers.

The thrust at diversification is pushed even more. Overseeing this is Panlilio who, before joining the conglomerate, served as assistant vice president for Far East Bank, senior vice president of PCI Bank and president of the Universal Food Corp.

With the conglomerate, he is chief executive officer of the

Balibago Waterworks System Inc. that serves Angeles City's northern area, major centers of Tarlac and Bulacan.

To pioneer in rural improvement is the mission of this private utility firm, Panlilio said.

Under him are the Pro-Dyn Business Consultants Inc., Athena Credit Inc. and the conglomerate's property development ventures.

The investing activities of the conglomerate, fueled by Pasudeco's profitability then and support from the administration of the late President Diosdado Macapagal, have seen it diversifying also in several prime residential subdivisions in Pampanga and landmark buildings in Escolta, Ermita, Malate and Makati City.

Pasudeco partly owns the 40-year-old National Life Building on Ayala Avenue in Makati City.

Pasudeco owners also control major holdings in Bacnotan Consolidated, National Life Insurance Corp., Bank of the Philippine Islands, Insular Sugar Refinery, Manuel L. Quezon University, Reinsurance Corporation of the Philippines and Ricogen, among others.

The Lazatin and Panlilio families are behind the land development in the City of San Fernando's suburbs where the SM City San Fernando and Robinson's Shopping Mall now stand.

Describing the conglomerate now, Escaler said: "It is one of the most underleveraged firms in the country. It has a healthy financial position that can be an envy of most, particularly to those that over-expanded and over-borrowed during the last decade."

Making profit isn't only its focus. The conglomerate strives to be a good corporate citizen.

With the Habitat for Humanity Foundation, it recently signed an agreement donating two brand new low-cost housing units in Tagaytay City.

Through a \$190,000 grant from the Rotary International, it is set to build a subsidized water distribution system for three poor villages in San Fernando City.

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Hotel works to ease stress of traveling these days

BUSINESS travel can be quite a challenge these days. In the aftermath of the terrorist bombings in the US, stepped up security measures have extended pre-departure procedures.

It is now fairly common to wait three hours before boarding flights. That is, after being subjected to all those sophisticated X-ray machines and even stricter body searches. No wonder the weary business traveler is even more frazzled lately.

Dusit Hotel Nikko's "Feel the Privilege" program is designed to ease the business traveler's load. Guests at the hotel's three executive floors and Dusit's signature landmark floor (floor area per room at the landmark is 60 square meters) will enjoy extra touches immediately upon their plane's touchdown.

First, they will be personally welcomed by Dusit representatives upon disembarking and assisted at the Immigration counter and Customs area. Then they will be escorted to the hotel limousine and brought directly to the hotel's main entrance. They will be met by hotel staff and ushered into their guestroom where the actual check-in procedures will take place. The guests will also be asked for their preferences regarding welcome beverage, pillows and their choice of coffee, tea or what they would like to have with their personalized wake up call.

Guests will enjoy a sumptuous breakfast spread every morning at the executive lounge on their guest floor, as well as sunset cocktails in the evening.

The lounge is open to them all day, and here,



THE LANDMARK Suite at about \$165 a night.

they can have their fill of sodas, fruits and cookies.

Executive and landmark floor guests are also entitled to complimentary daily laundry, local phone calls, use of workstation at the business center, access to the health and fitness club and outdoor swimming pool, and full concierge services.

Upon departure, guests can wait for their flight at the business class lounge of the international airport.

Room rates are \$125 per night for executive floors and \$165 for landmark floor. These rates are valid weekdays and weekends until Dec. 31, 2001, subject to local taxes and service charge.

(For more information, please contact Joey Bernardino, director of sales, or Mike Celis, senior sales manager, Dusit Hotel Nikko (632) 867-3333 or e-mail dusitnmt@dusit.com or resvmt@dusit.com for reservations.)

Rolls-Royce sets up shop in Pampanga

ROLLS-Royce-Pic. and its partner, the Philippine Aerospace Development Corp. officially opened its first aero repair and overhaul facility to service commercial and military customers in East Asia.

Rolls-Royce Engine Services Limitada Inc. will provide maintenance services for Rolls-Royce Model 250 engines, modules and accessories for operators of civil and military helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft in the East Asia region, including the Philippine government.

The facility is located in a new 1,100 square meter facility at the Berthapil Business Complex, an enterprise action zone in Pampanga. It may be expanded to rework Rolls-Royce T56/501 turbo prop engines, which powers, among other airforces in the region, the Philippine's fleet of Lockheed Martin C-130 Hercules aircraft.

Ian Lloyd, managing director, Aero Repair and Overhaul, for Rolls-Royce said: "For some time, a key part of our repair and overhaul strategy has been to bring our business closer to our customers. Here in the Philippines, this latest joint venture provides a focal point for specialist aero engine maintenance in this important growth region."

The joint venture, in which Rolls-Royce has an 80 per cent share, has already begun operations and is staffed by around a dozen local employees.

Since 1998, Rolls-Royce has also oper-



ROLLS-Royce Engine Services Limitada Inc. VP Bill Collier; Rolls-Royce Aero Repair and Overhaul managing director Ian Lloyd; Rolls-Royce Engine Services Limitada Inc. president Rajesh Sharmar; and Rolls-Royce regional director Jonathan Asherton.

ated a highly successful power generation project in the Philippines. Coca Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. based at two facilities in Laguna, south of Manila, uses Rolls-Royce diesel engines, boilers and control systems to support its production processes, including the manufacture of carbon dioxide for the famous drink.

Rolls-Royce Engine Services Limitada, Inc. is the 17th facility in the company's global services network. Last year, revenues from aero repair and overhaul were \$1.6 billion, a four-fold increase from 1995. During the past three years, Rolls-Royce has doubled its market share of repair and overhaul of its own civil engine products.

Ensure peace of mind; get credit card insurance

WITH the financial confidence that credit cards bring, cardmembers often overlook a dire possibility: someday, something untoward may happen that will render them incapable of paying their bills. This can happen not just from lack of funds, but especially if the cardmember should suffer an untimely demise or lose his means of income because of an unforeseen sickness or accident.

What will happen next is that the cardmember's immediate family members will have to take up the obligation of paying off the monthly credit card bills. But because of the financial difficulties brought about by the cardmember's untimely demise or loss of income, they may be unable to do so.

This woeful circumstance, however, can now be avoided through the help of a new credit card insurance product called CreditGuard, which is available to all Citibank credit cardmembers. With CreditGuard, Citibank cardmembers can protect their credit worthiness should they suffer from an untimely death, sickness or disablement.

Underwritten by CMG Life Insurance Co. Inc., CreditGuard is now being offered as the newest feature of Citibank

credit cards. This valuable insurance feature pays for the total outstanding balance up to the credit limit or a maximum of P600,000 in case of the cardmember's death due to natural causes, sickness or accident, or in case of permanent disablement that leads to his loss of job or means of income.

What's more, CreditGuard will pay the minimum monthly due on the Citibank cardmember's account for up to six months in the event of temporary disablement. Certificate of coverage will be given to cardmembers who will be covered under CreditGuard to give them more details on the coverage.

This credit card insurance product simply intends to give all Citibank cardmembers peace of mind. They will know that their families will be protected against incurring their debts, and thus be able to maintain good credit relations, should circumstances suddenly render them unable to pay their monthly dues.

CreditGuard, therefore, will go a long way toward helping Citibank cardmembers and their families settle the issue of credit card bills at the time when it should be the least of their worries. That's why Citibank has enabled its Visa and MasterCard

cardholders to enjoy the unique CreditGuard coverage for the first three months free of charge. Moreover, cardmembers need not pay the documentary stamp tax (DST) as Citibank will be paying for it. No need to undergo the hassles of medical examination or complete lengthy forms.

On the fourth month, monthly premium payments will commence at only P0.36 for every P100 of the cardmember's outstanding credit card balance. So for a monthly outstanding card balance of P25,000, one will pay only P90. No outstanding balance means no premiums charged.

Cardmembers will experience frequent communication on CreditGuard and its benefits via personalized offers, statement inserts, statement messages and press releases.

The cardmember may opt to cancel the coverage any time. He must simply call the CreditGuard Customer Hotline at tel. No. 860-0999 or fax/mail back the CreditGuard Cancellation Form.

By ensuring family protection from debt and helping them maintain their good credit standing, CreditGuard enhances the Citibank cardholder's sense of responsibility, for his finances, his future, and his loved ones.

ARE YOU in OUR FUTURE?

Our launching last September 29, 2001 was a milestone for all of us. In a short period of time RISE E-Commerce Systems innovations have made a world of difference. Today, our products and services are empowering consumers.

Our Business Center Operations (BCOs) provide the Systems that delivers economic development to households of every barangay, town and city nationwide. Our cybermall and e-card will take consumer empowerment to the next level. The Vend-O-Rise, our version of the modern rolling store, will provide a convenient alternative to the way families purchase raw and processed food products. And our latest innovation, the RISE Convenience Store, the one stop and shop store for the whole family. And we've only just begun.

You see at RISE E-Commerce Systems, Inc., each product and service we develop becomes the inspiration for future innovations. Innovations designed to help alleviate poverty as well as uplift the country's economy. And that brings us all something very important. A better life.

Are you in our future?



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www.rise-cybermall.com
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For Areas Without BCOs, Call
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- 38 RISE-MANDALAY CITY, Cebu Samuel Quilo #901 Alfabio St. Subangdaku, Mandaue, Cebu (032) 345-6711/345-6460
- 39 RISE-CEBU CITY INC. Ramiro Espina Unit 8, Galleria Fuente Mango Ave. Cebu City (0919) 520-6083

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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Denmark's largest turbine firm in PowerTrends 2001

RISING in the North Sea 14 km west of the Danish city of Esbjerg is the world's largest offshore wind farm. The farm will become operational next year, boosting by 160 megawatts Denmark's electricity production.

The mere establishment of the wind farm is an engineering feat of the highest order. Even though there are wind turbines already located at sea today, this will be the first in deep waters far from the coast.

The North Sea wind farm is being built by Vestas-Scandinavian Wind Technology A/S, the largest wind turbine company in Denmark and the world.

Vestas A/S will be one of several global firms that will be coming to Ma-

nila for PowerTrends 2001, the biennial exhibition on new trends in energy and power engineering scheduled for Dec. 5 to 7 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila.

Vestas A/S will put on exhibit the latest technology in wind turbines and the huge potential the wind turbine industry has in store for energy and power generation in the years ahead.

Originally scheduled for September, PowerTrends has been moved to the new date to coincide with this year's observance of Energy Week, an annual event sponsored by the Department of Energy. It is organized by Singapore-based Interfama International and Interfama Philippines. Interested parties can call Elizabeth Cruz or Robert

Sanchez at 818-76828 or e-mail lvrge@netasia.net for additional information.

PowerTrends 2001 will be held concurrently with PowerTech Business forum 2001, the 5th international business forum on power and energy development.

Principal sponsors of the trade show are the Department of Energy, the National Power Corporation, the Philippine Independent Power Producers Association and the Renewable Energy Association of the Philippines. It is also supported by the UK DTI New and Renewable Energy Program; Korea Electrical Manufacturers Association; and Korea Electrical Manufacturers Cooperative.



NEW PMMAP OFFICERS

Senator Ramon Magsaysay Jr. inducts the new set of officers and directors of the Purchasing and Materials Management Officers (PMMAP) at induction rites held recently at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. Shown are (from left) Magsaysay, Enrique Martinez, director (Total Concepts Distributions), Mina Bato, director (House of Sara Lee), Tessa Castro, director (Unilab), Marissa Villanueva, director (Griffith Laboratories), Miraluz Tan, corporate secretary (Goya Inc.), Dean Guevarra, C.P.M., third VP (Central Azucarera Don Pedro), Ofelia Valero, first VP (Merck), Imelda Carillo, C.P.M. president (Johnson and Johnson), Olivia Lanado, C.P.M., immediate past president (Nestle Phils.), Angel Garchallan, C.P.M., second VP (Philip Morris), Antonio Espiritu, treasurer (Kuok Group of Companies), Minerva Agas, C.P.M., director (Smart Communications), Lourdes Bambalan, director (Flexopark International Corp.), Gardenia de Erit, director (Negros Navigation), Carmelo Ocampo, director (Globe Telecoms), and Glenn Funk, director (Caltex).



OPTIMUS SPACE SOLUTIONS INC. AT PHILCONSTRUCT 2001

Optimus Space Solutions Inc. signs up as exhibitor at the Philconstruct 2001, Southeast Asia's premier construction and building exhibition, slated at World Trade Center Metro Manila from Nov. 15 to 18. Signing the participation is Ed M. Tenorio Jr., Optimus Space Solutions general manager (right) and Ruby Ocfemia, project manager of Convex International, professional event organizer. Some 400 companies from 30 nations are showcased in this event which brings together leading suppliers and manufacturers of construction materials, products and services. Philconstruct 2001 also provides networking opportunities. More information can be obtained from www.convex-ph.com or from Convex at 726-8664 and 726-4128 to 30, e-mail convex@mozcom.com.



SEEING THE BIG PICTURE TOGETHER

Joining hands to see the big picture together are (standing) Jojo Janolo, DigitelOne sales manager (corporate solutions division), Rose Marbil, DigitelOne corporate accounts manager, (seated from left) Allan Santos, AVP for sales DigitelOne, Patrick Palacios, DigitelOne vice president for corporate solutions division, Brian Go, managing director of DigitelOne, Rene Dos Remedios, president of Meridian Telecom and Ricky Peña, vice president for sales and marketing.



ALAY LAKAD INDUCTION

Vice President and Foreign Affairs Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. swears in the new Board of Trustees of the Alay Lakad Foundation held recently at the Quirino Grandstand in Luneta. At the helm are Frank A. Evaristo, president; DECS Secretary Raul S. Roco, vice president; PIA director general Dave M. Gomez, secretary; Carlito B. Dimar, treasurer; DILG Sec. Jose D. Lina Jr., assistant treasurer; and Elpidio O. Abela, auditor. Shown from left are Guingona, Evaristo, DECS representative director Max Aljibe, NEC chair Lions PDG Rolie Inovero, DSWD undersecretary Luwalhati Pablo and Kiwanis governor Jack Dominguez.



MOST OUTSTANDING FRANCHISE

Chowking, the country's fastest growing Oriental quick-serve chain, was recently cited by the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA) as the outstanding Filipino franchise of the year (food category). The award was a culmination of the Franchise Excellence Awards at the Asia Expo 2001 recently held at the World Trade Center. Chowking was also given the best booth award. A member of the Jollibee Group, Chowking's current network consists of 180 outlets throughout the country. Shown during the awarding ceremony were (from left) Vicente Paterno, honorary chair, PFA; Jerry Isla, chair, Joaquin Cunanan and Associates; Samie Lim, chair, Asia-Pacific Franchise Confederation; Manuel Siggaoat, president, PFA; Raffy de la Rosa, CEO, Chowking Food Corp.; Bill McGowan, Immediate past chair, World Franchise Council; and William LeSante, representative, International Franchise Association.

Plia sponsors Remedios rockfest

THE PHILIPPINE Life Insurance Association (Plia) recently marked the close of the Life Insurance Consciousness Week last Friday with a rockfest and street party at the Remedios Circle on Adriatico corner Remedios Street in Malate, Manila starting at 6:30 in the evening.

The closing ceremonies was also highlighted by a message from Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, guest speaker and co-sponsor of the event together with Plia.

The Life Insurance Consciousness Week began with kick-off activities attended by around 2,000 employees, agents and managers of Philippine Life Insurance Association (Plia) member companies at the Ayala Commercial Center, Makati last Sunday, Oct. 7. The theme of the week-long celebration is "Life is Good."

Four rock bands rendered their original compositions as well as top hits from the '60s to the '90s and music of the new decade, including the latest ska, blues-rock-pop and dance music such as reggae. The bands are The Brew, Snubhouse, Jeepney Joyride and Shuffle Union, who played in venues such as Freedom Bar, Hard Rock Café, Oracafe and Fat Willy's. The Shuffle Union, composed of young musicians, won the best performance award for the Asian Finals of the Yamaha Band Alert Competition in Bangkok last February.

Equitable launches rewards program

EQUITABLE Card launches "Equitable Advantage Plus Rewards," an incentive program exclusive to cardholders of Equitable Visa, MasterCard, JCB and American Express credit cards, to run from Aug. 7 to Dec. 31.

The Equitable Advantage Plus Rewards allows principal cardholders to redeem goods and services for points accumulated by using the above mentioned Equitable credit cards, Classic and Gold, International and Local.

It also includes all Equitable Visa Corporate Cards, Equitable Affinity Cards and selected co-branded cards.

"This is our way of thanking our cardholders for their continued patronage. You only need to spend P50 to earn one E-point. Plus the longer you've been our cardholder, the more bonus E-points you earn. But let's just say that this is just a preview of bigger things to come because on the drawing board is another rewards promo that will surely thrill our cardholders," explains Teresita Tanbonlong, first vice president for card sales and marketing.

The Equitable Advantage Plus Rewards is also applicable to deferred payment plan (DPP) and to valid dollar transactions.

What's more, cardholders who subscribe to separate Equitable Visa, Equitable MasterCard, Equitable JCB or Equitable American Express may consolidate their E-points to aim for bigger rewards.

"I believe no other credit card company has done this before only because we want our clients to enjoy their 'rewards' in the truest sense of the word," says Tanbonlong.

Furthermore, every P500 spent using Equitable Credit Card entitles the cardholder to one raffle number, the grand prize for which is a trip for two onboard a Star Cruises luxury vessel.



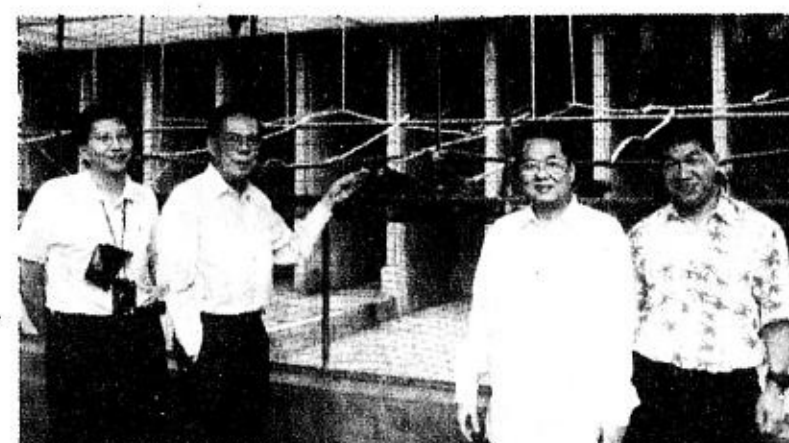
HARVARD DELEGATES IN SINGAPORE

Asean Secretary General Rodolfo C. Severino meets with Jose Leviste III, Carmina Jorlan, John Imperial and Kristine Garrucho of the Philippine delegation to the Harvard Asian and International Relations Conference recently hosted by the National University of Singapore.



NUTROPLEX SUPPORTS KK

Nutroplex (from Unilab Phils.) together with the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) pledged its support to Karunungan Karavan (KK) last June 19. KK is GMA Foundation's (GMAF) 3-day reading camp that aims to develop the love for reading among children. Present during the MOA signing were (seated, from left) DECS assistant secretary Fe Hidalgo, Ph. D.; Alvin So, product director for Unilab; Me-Ann Santiago, OIC, signing on behalf of GMAF executive director Carmen Jimenez-Ong; (standing, from left) Jullie Gallos, GMAF operations manager; Joanne Ng-Yap, GMAF marketing manager and Mark Alcantara, Nutroplex brand manager.



BIRD PARK OBSERVATION TOUR

Dr. Kwa Soon Bee, chair of three prestigious tourist attractions in Singapore—The Singapore Night Safari in Sentosa Island, Jurong BirdPark Pte. Ltd. and the Singapore Zoological Gardens—recently visited and observed the captive breeding operations of the Birds International Inc.'s (BII) Avicultural Park and Research Center in Quezon City. Shown (from left) are Dr. Wong Hon Mun, managing director of the Jurong BirdPark; Dr. Kwa Soon Bee; Antonio M. De Dios, president of BII and Chua Kah Soon, owner of Goodwill Birds Trading and distributor of BII in Singapore.



KULTURANG PAMANA OFFICERS INDUCTED

Vice President Teofisto Guingona (third from right) administers the oath of office to officials of Kulturang Pamana, a non-government organization founded by letters to the editor-writers and dedicated to promoting Filipino cultural values. Shown from left are Gerry Gamez, treasurer; Al Rea, auditor; Dr. Pil Garcia, trustee; Dr. Marlou Abon, president; and Rolie Maningas, secretary. Looking on at right is engineer Jun Tanyag, founding member and honorary president of KP. For membership, interested parties may contact the KP

If you've failed thrice, success may be around

BY MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO

AT THE Library of Congress, there are 1,200 books on success and 16 books on failure.

The books on failure are now out of circulation.

"These books are taboo. People don't like reading about failure," says Malaysian Billie P. S. Lim, author of several books on 'Dare to Fail.' "But many experience failure more than success."

It is ironic that the man who met success quite early is now focusing on writing about failure.

Lim says almost right after he graduated from the university, he and 14 childhood friends started a network marketing firm which proved successful.

They each put in 1,000 ringgits (about \$250) and created a network that sells a laundry detergent called Hi-Suds.

They actually got the idea from the success of Amway in the country. They noted that the US firm's laundry soap

was not sudsy, yet they know that Asians like lots of bubbles when doing the laundry.

Success lasted six years. He and his group made changes that led to their failure. They decided to undertake the manufacturing of the detergent instead of subcontracting it as they were doing from the start.

But the product they came up with was not good—the color of their soap changed because they did not do enough color stability tests before putting out the product in the market.

He told his group that it was over and they had to give back the money as that was the guarantee of their product.

The six-year success turned into failure overnight.

At the time he lost his business, Lim's girlfriend left him. He never got married.

In his books, what Lim is trying to impart is that "there is nothing wrong with failure. It is part of the process of growth and learning."

"When you are down, there is no way to go but up. You should not be worried of falling down because you have been there," he adds.

The second important lesson he imparts is that "the real essence is that people should realize that if they have not experienced failure, they have not experienced the downside of life, then they have not experienced half of life."

Lim cites an American study that successful people have experienced failure at least 3.8 times.

Based on his lectures, Lim says most people who have attended his talks admit that they have experienced failure at least three times.

Those who rise out of their failure are those who persist and have the big drive to succeed.

Lim is currently tracking three Asian multimillionaires who lost their fortunes during the Asian crisis.

He says all three have read his books and are starting to get back on their feet.

One is a Malaysian whose wife left him and their four children when he lost his money then took over his house, the only property they had left.

The other is a Singaporean who had a net worth of the equivalent of some P3 billion and lost it all. Now he is facing 20 to 30 lawsuits.

Lim says the important thing for these people to realize is that they have not lost what brought them the fortunes in the first place—their brains.

Lim was in the country recently to visit and explore business opportunities. He says he took a course at the Asian Institute of Management 20 years ago. Now he is also working on a Filipino translation of his books.

He started a series of lectures in the region and is set to conduct one in the Philippines on Nov. 29, entitled "Dare to Fail" at the Dusit Hotel Nikko.

(For inquiries, e-mail at babylonsisters99@yahoo.com, or call 750-1495 or 740-1499.)



AUTHOR Billie Lim dares people to fail; eyes a Filipino translation for his books.

Businessmen find reasons to give gifts

EVERYONE will agree that in business, there is always a good reason for giving gifts. Whether one is a struggling entrepreneur or manager of a global manufacturing company, from broadcasting networks to pre-need insurance firms, every occasion is an occasion for gift-giving.

Many companies around the world make their mark in business with Parker pens. A gift of a Parker pen is an eloquent expression of how much a company values its associates and shows the giver's status and good taste. The famous Parker arrow clip, after all, has come to symbolize prestige, reliability, writing excellence and superior craftsmanship—values top global and local companies stringently keep to.

PETPlans is in the business of providing Filipinos an avenue for securing the future via pension, education and memorial plans. Lyn Tapan of PETPlans shares, "It is important for us to keep not only our plan holders happy but more so our business partners and agents" who help generate revenue for the firm. To reward and motivate hardworking PETPlans sales force, the company opted for the rugged appeal and precision engineering of the Parker Frontier Metallic Fountain Pen, and the durable and distinctive Parker Vector. Apart from the income that agents derive from commissions, PETPlans partners also look forward to prizes, which they receive through various drives and incentives. These reward programs are PETPlans' way of thanking business allies for their rock-solid support through the years. "We chose Parker because we wanted to give our business partners quality giveaways," says Tapan. "Parker has always maintained an image of quality and reliability at the right price. We want the best for our business partners and Parker is one of the best writing instruments there is."

Last year's ultra-successful "Himig Handog sa Bayaning Pilipino Songwriting Competition" was another opportunity for media giant ABS-CBN to show the stuff they're made of. Complementing the show's lavish production, ABS-CBN Consumer Products gave out stylish Parker Rialto Pens to contest judges. On another occasion, the company ordered Rialto Pens for their special guests from the banking community.

Julienne Jeanette Topacio, corporate affairs manager of ABS-CBN consumer products, believes that "the gifts a company gives represent the image it wants to project. Parker is a world-renowned brand. Giving away fine writing instruments such as Parker pens, is consistent with the corporate image that ABS-CBN wants to project."

Companies across the globe go for Parker to meet their distinct marketing needs because the pens can be custom-designed to suit particular promotional requirements. Parker's advanced imprinting technology allows for a faithful and tasteful reproduction of your brand's advertising theme on the pen's exterior: multi-colored graphics around the entire surface of the pen, clip, and crown emblems imprinted with symbols or logos, and other unique patterns tailored to your own specifications.

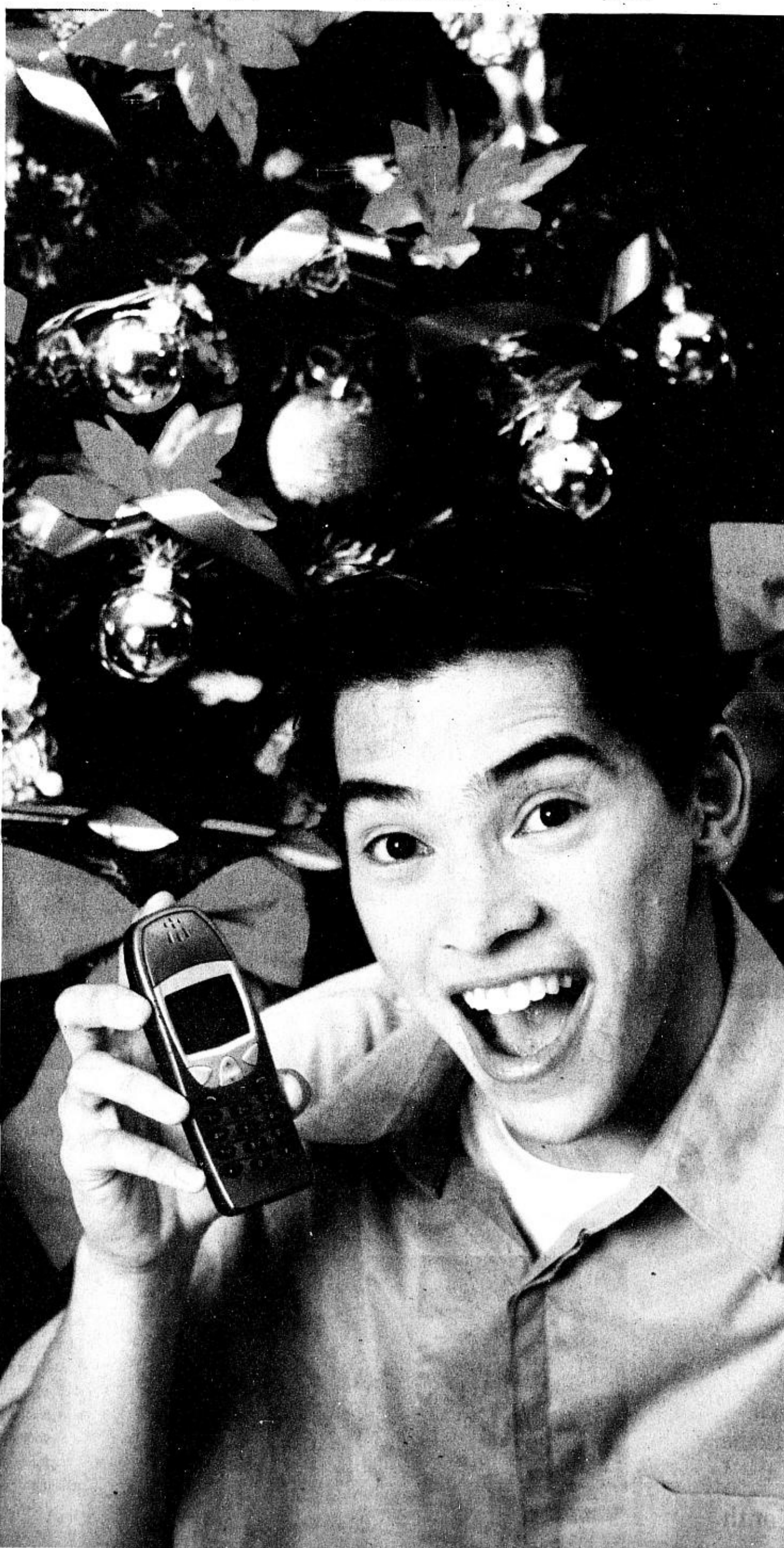
While each Parker pen can be designed to satisfy the user's distinctive taste, there is one thing in common with all Parker pens worldwide: they are unconditionally guaranteed against failures due to faulty materials or workmanship throughout the life of their original owner.

Philam Plans, a progressive pre-need company, markets education, pension and life plans. Its products include Philam Plans Gold Education Plan, Philam Plans Future Fund Multi-Purpose Pension Plan, and Philam Plans Ultima Life Plan. Assistant manager Allen Corpuz relates that "giving gifts is an integral part of corporate life, a way of spreading goodwill, sealing and strengthening business partnerships and motivating our employees and sales force."

As gift for 5-year service awardees, Philam Plans presented their loyal employees with the Rialto Matte Fountain Pen, a contemporary, European-styled pen. Clients and associates received the Parker Vector as yuletide presents and motivational items.

Parker remains the world's leading brand of writing instruments and recently won the coveted Reader's Digest Asia SuperBrand 2001 Award for quality pens, garnering performance rates significantly above other competitors in the same category—the only survey of its kind and magnitude across southeast Asia.

If you want your gift to reflect your company's quality standards, simply call Tel. Nos. 364-6041 to 49 and find out the many corporate gift possibilities with Parker. Business is all about alliances and nurturing important partnerships, and every Parker pen represents a sincere "thank you," a commemoration of cherished ties, a heart-warming gesture. But perhaps the best argument as to why Parker can be considered the corporate gift of choice is that, it is the only company giveaway that will look elegant tucked in an executive's breast pocket.



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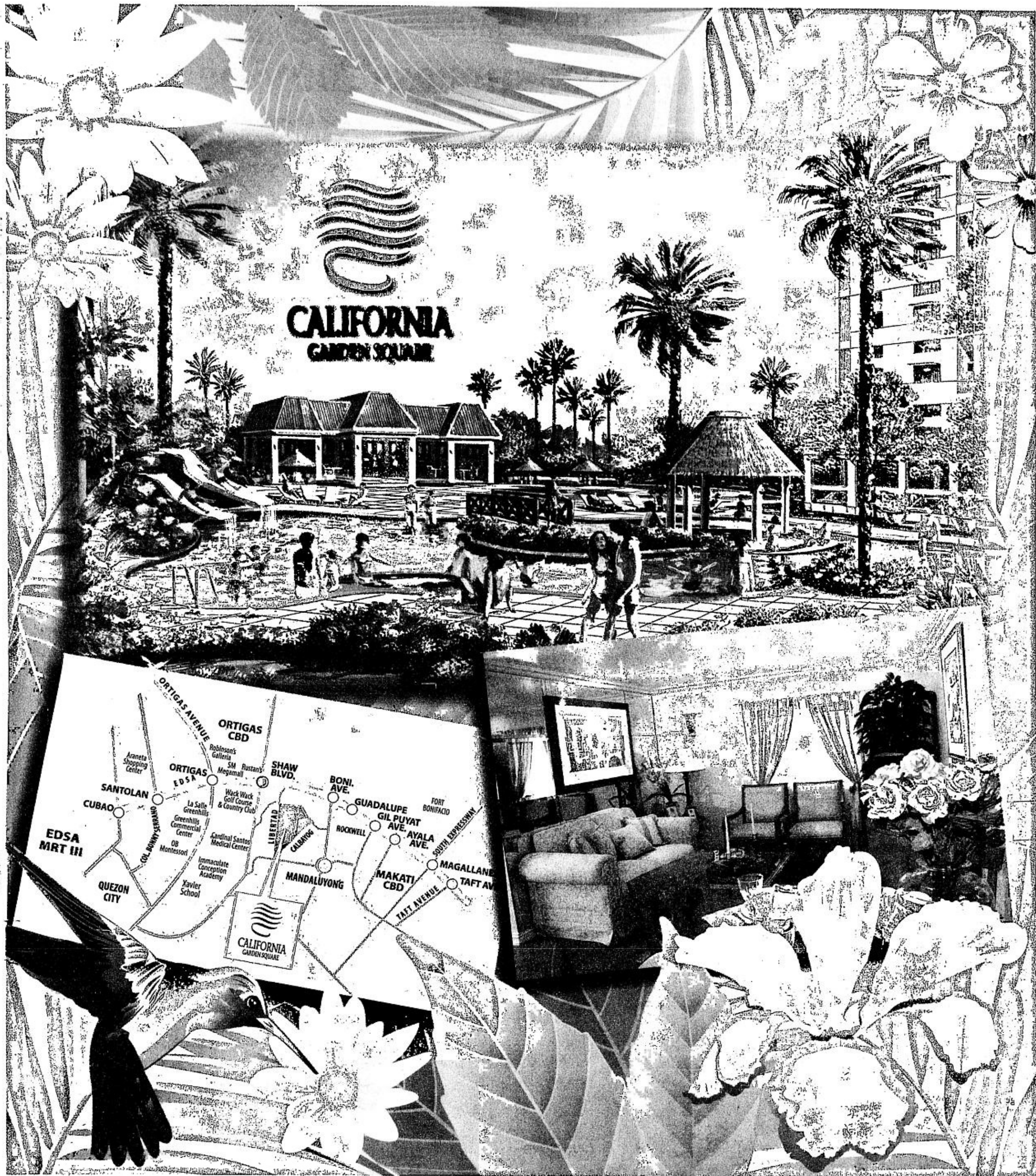
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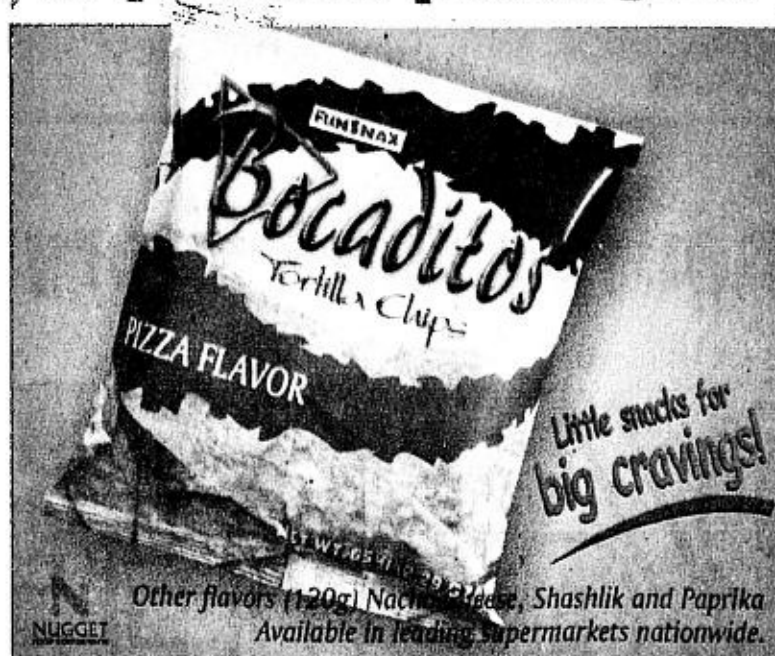


INTENSE
ARTIST.
Joven
Ignacio at
work

In winged watercolor

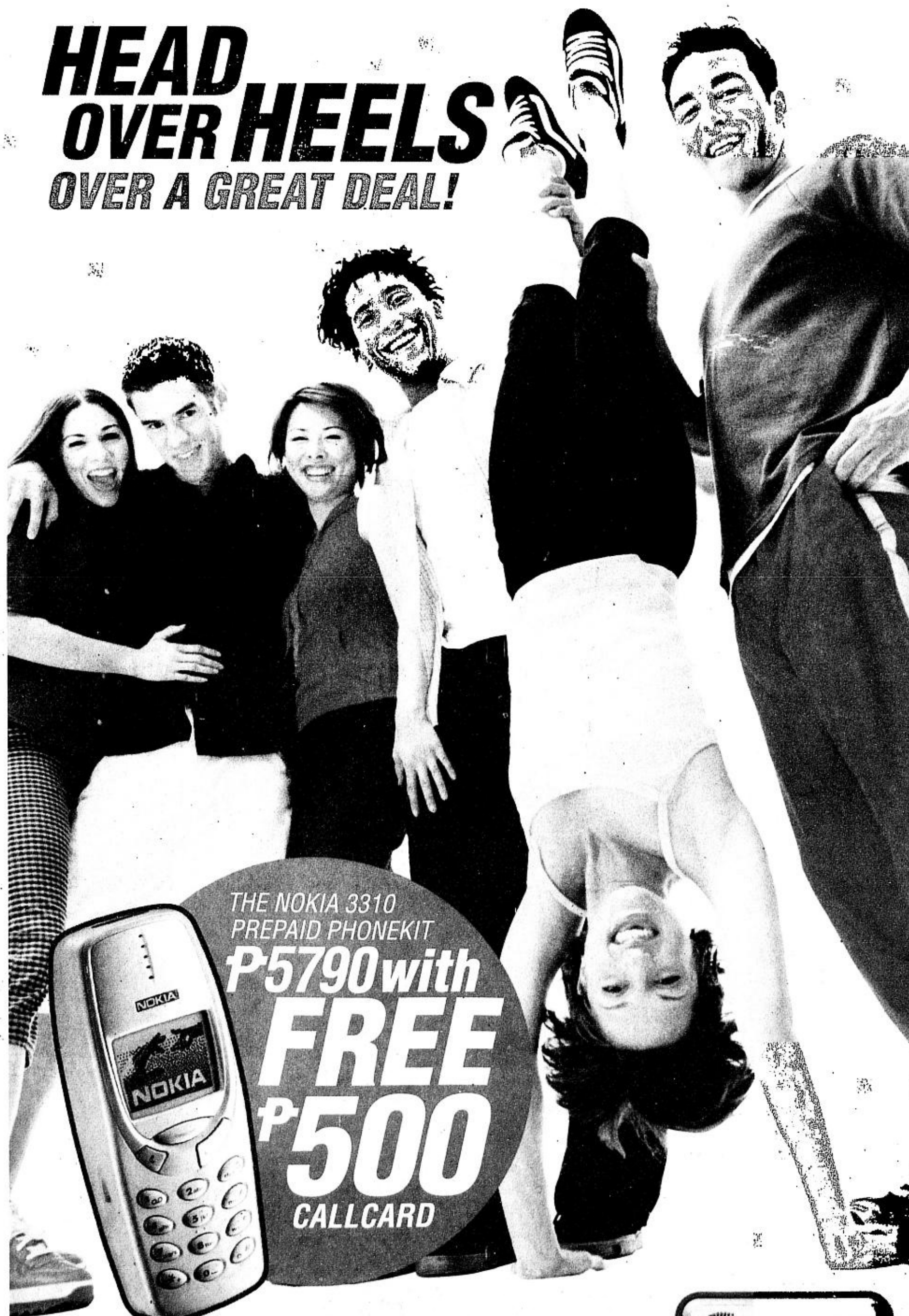
Story on page D2

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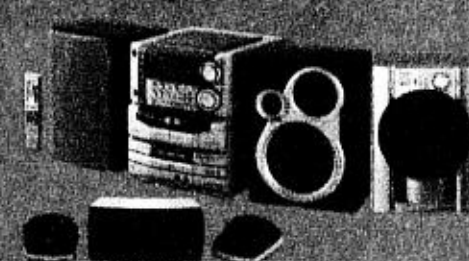
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"THE TROJANS,"
watercolor,
22x30"
(birds:
nutmeg)



Architect-artist
Joven Ignacio
paints birds as an aesthetic
and an advocacy



"DIALOGUES of the Carmelites," watercolor, 22x30" (birds: house swifts)

In winged watercolor

BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA

PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

PAINTING PHOTOS BY EDDIE BOY ESCUDERO

It all began with a young boy's passion for parakeets. Architect-artist Joven Ignacio's love affair with birds began with a menagerie of 20 parakeets he lovingly cared for in his mother's garden. "All my allowance would often go into feeding those birds," he remembers.

Unfortunately, one summer, while the young Joven was away on vacation, the parakeets became prey to a dog that had not been fed. "I can still remember how my father had taken extra care to keep one of the dead parakeets in a shoebox and together we buried it in the garden," he looks back wistfully with a smile. The childhood grief eventually found closure and today, Ignacio's parakeets together with a whole flock of exotic Philippine birds come fully alive in paintings that have been described by no less than Araceli Dans as poetic and extraordinary.

Ignacio's formal training is in architecture. Graduating from the University of the Philippines, he was sent by the British Council in 1992 for further studies as a Chevening scholar. He now holds a master's degree in architecture from Sheffield University in the United Kingdom. Joven also received a research fellowship at De Monfort University in England and was a



"MOTHER of Us All," watercolor, 22x30" (birds: swallows)

staff member at the same university's building simulation research center, the Institute of Energy and Sustainable Development. An environmentalist at heart, he is an architect who always tries to integrate all that is good in nature in his designs. Thus, Ignacio is an advocate for recycling and will be the first to espouse natural lighting in practically all his works.

Affair

The affair with watercolor began while he was caring for a sick aunt. After dabbling for a while in this most difficult of mediums, he approached Napoleon Abueva at the UP and with much hesitation presented his works for the National Art-

IN WINGED/ p.D3



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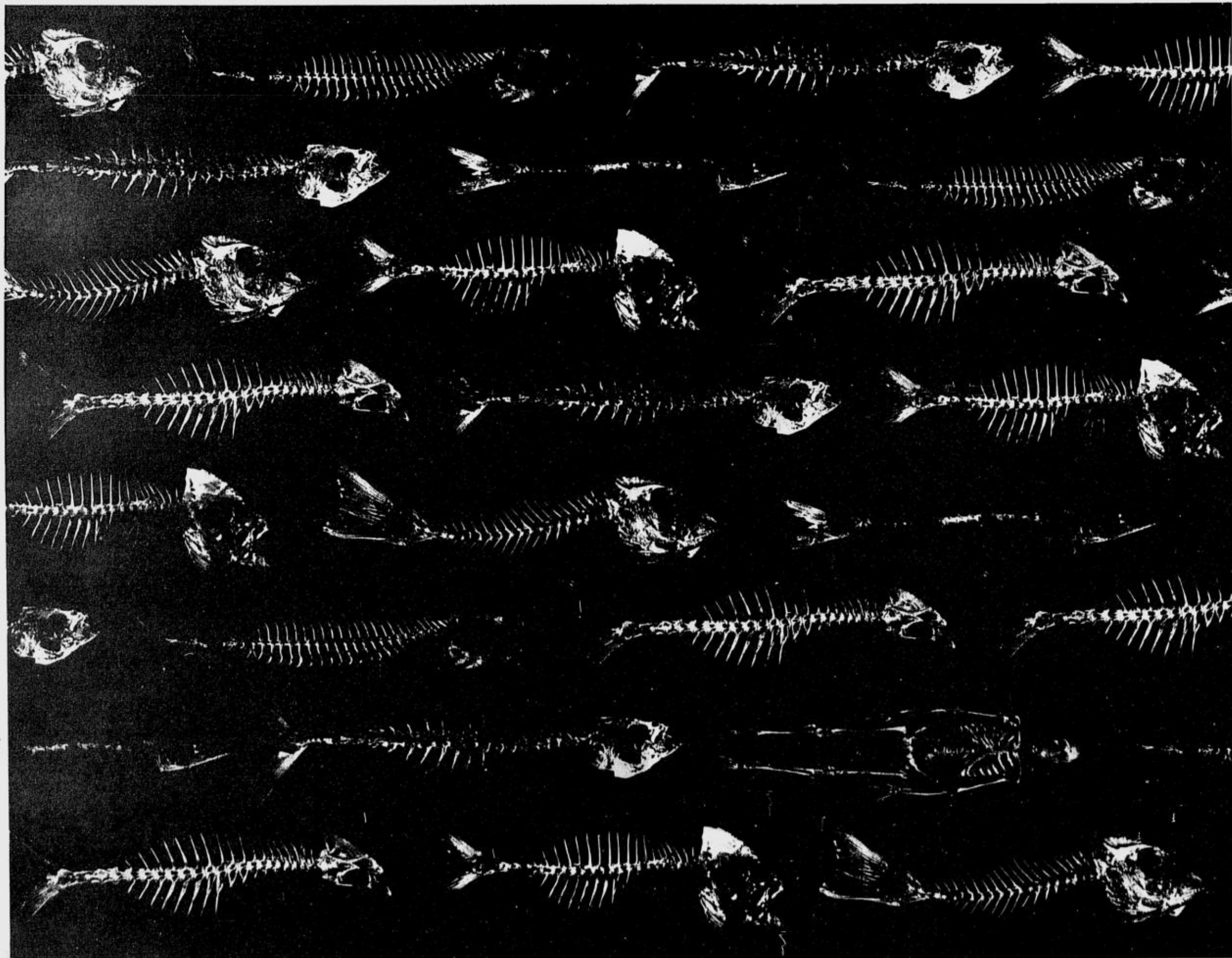
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In winged watercolor

(From page D2)

ist's comments. Abueva was immediately taken by the young man's work and impressed by his skill. "Watercolor is the hardest medium in painting and Joven's handling of this medium is exceptional," Abueva says. He added that Ignacio's works speak of spontaneity, natural flow of colors, light and composition.

Abueva then introduced Ignacio to seasoned artist Araceli Dans who has taken a personal interest in mentoring and honing the young man's craft. "The birds and flowers are tributes to God's beautiful creations. Nowadays, it is refreshing to come upon paintings that are not neurotic and depressing," Dans says as she looks over Ignacio's works which hang in the studio that Ignacio designed for her. It is, by the way, a studio that makes use of recycled wood, and filled with an abundance of air and natural lighting.

She quickly adds, "As you follow the path of Joven's watercolor-soaked brush, the birds and flowers turn alive and they engulf our spirit," she says. "Joven clearly has a high appointment with destiny in the field of visual arts."

Coming from an artist like Dans, Ignacio is much encouraged to further hone his craft. A haptic artist—one who paints from memory—his first exhibit two years ago, aptly titled "First Flight," had stuffed birds for models. Using pictures from books and lifeless birds on display at the National Museum, Ignacio breathes life into these fair-feathered creatures through sheer imagination and vivid memory.

The magic and wonder in Ignacio's art stems from the fact that he uses no live bird models to capture the intricacies of their feathers or the grace and beauty of their flight. Ignacio's subjects focus on exotic Philippine birds so as to bring public awareness to these endangered species. Thus his art has a dual purpose—as an outlet for great creativity and as an advocacy for the environment. A second exhibit held last year together with sculptor Tito Sanchez was much welcomed by art lovers and completely sold out.

New exhibit

On Nov. 6, Ignacio mounts a third exhibit at the Metropolitan Art Gallery at SM Megamall's Artwalk titled "Vanishing Points," where he features a host of endangered Philippine birds and other fair-feathered friends as the main subjects. His paintings take their titles from operas, some of which are "Dialogues of the Carmelites," featuring House swifts in a merry chatter; "The Trojans,"



"THE TENDER Land,"
watercolor, 22x30"



IGNACIO and
mentor Araceli
Dans

showing a trio of Nutmegs perched on a driftwood as if ready for war; and "Mother of Us All," depicting a flock of swallows being fed by their mother.

Ignacio's paintings are highly valued by collectors for their sheer quality and the manner by which the painting speaks to the heart of one who loves not necessarily birds, but nature in general. Abueva said it best when he described Ignacio's works as "both an heirloom and as a constant medium to commune with the beauty of nature."

Watching the highly talented and soft-spoken Ignacio quietly at work that bright morning, one can only surmise how proud his parakeets must be to see how far their young master has come.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

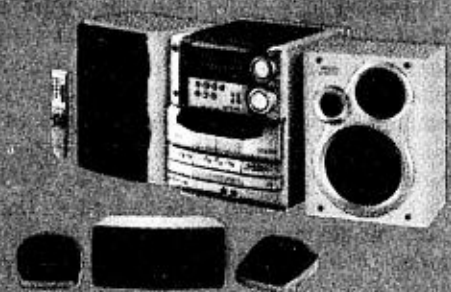
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OCTOBER



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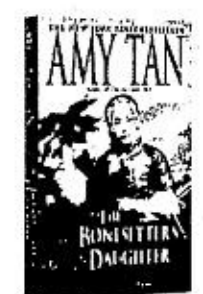
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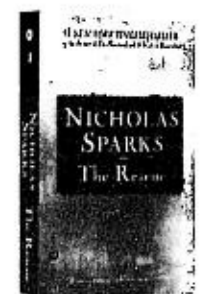
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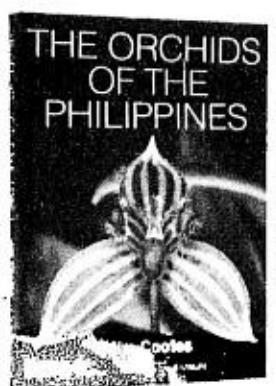
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Amy Tan
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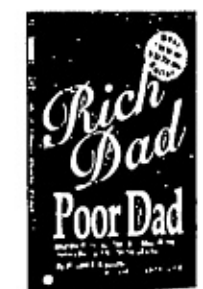
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Of weavings and windows

BY GINO DORMIENDO

WITHOUT fuss or fanfare, a Filipino expatriate who has made New York City her home for over a decade recently mounted a rare collection of fabric art in her homecoming. Her name is Edna Sterling Abundo of Zamboanga City. Migrating to Manila in the 1970s, she became an administrative executive for several companies until the '80s. When she moved to New York to accompany her daughter for her studies, she became fascinated with fabric and was obsessed to transform it into a highly personal medium that would approximate art.

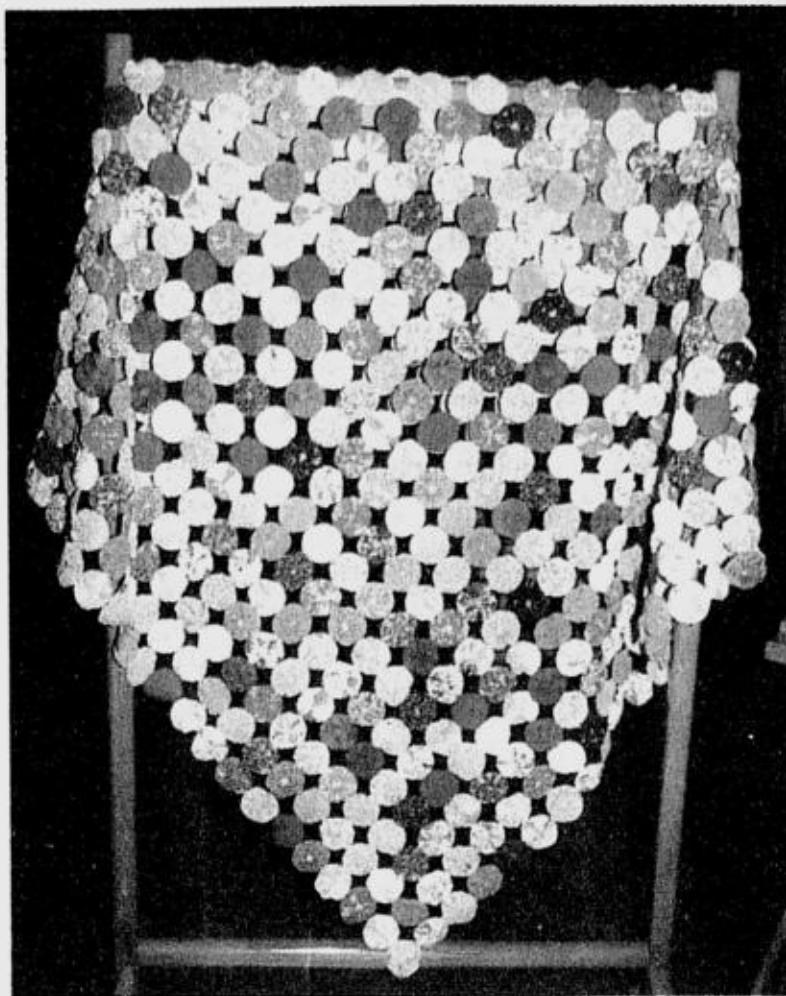
The exhibit, consisting of 15 pieces of varied sizes, was displayed for a couple of days at the Philippine Plaza Hotel main lobby. Abundo's collection of fabric art, which she single-handedly crafted out of a wide assortment of American cotton, reveals the artist's impressions of her sojourns in various places around the United States and Europe, such as New York, New Jersey, Paris, London and others, which she had the pleasure of visiting in the course of her daughter's studies and professional stint.

The exhibit she called "Windows to the World," an apt title considering that the pieces delve into her memoirs, or travel diaries, of those places. The work that went to every piece is admittedly painstaking—indeed many of these works are so huge it is a puzzle how they could have been made by a woman's fragile hands—and highly intricate in their execution. They also demonstrate the great deal of time and laborious effort expended in the making of every piece.

Cool

Abundo's single-minded pursuit of fabric as artistic medium may well resemble that of itinerant Filipina artist Pacita Abad's *trapunto* art, which, by the way, also records her impressions of and insights into the places in the world she has visited, particularly the Central and South Asian regions. But while Abad's temperament is wild and effervescent, Abundo's is starkly cool, calculated and introspective, revealing the sense and sensibility of a woman in a deep meditative mood, ready to take on a job of almost Herculean proportions.

What's truly amazing is that Abundo informally learned the intricacies of fabric art while spending time tending to hearth and home abroad, in the company of daughter Catherine, who, on record, is the youngest book writer in the world, having written her first book (on President Cory Aquino) at age 10. And she does everything by her lonesome, from the selection of cloth to the final cutting and sewing as she imagines the over-

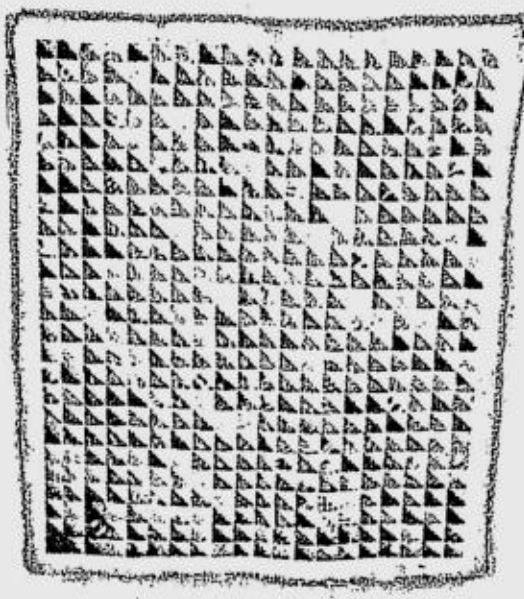


"YO-YO"

New York-based Edna Sterling Abundo has transformed fabric weaving into a highly personal art



ABUNDO



"THOUSAND TREASURES"

all design, relying for the most part on her well-spring of memory and introspection.

But what stunning pieces her deft and agile hands can create! In "The Secret Garden," for instance, which is mainly inspired by 20th-century art, beaded exotic flowers and soft color palette complement one another to create a wonderful cornucopia of leaves and blooms, embellished with glass, corals and seed beads from India and Africa, ranging from wild tulips and glacier lilies to birds of paradise to banana leaves. The work further shows a solitary figure treading the path, about to unravel the mysteries that nature holds.

A large work is "On My Way to Providence," which records those years she spent traveling from New York to Providence to visit her daughter who was then studying in Brown University. The piece shows the topography of a New England village, with its collection of old homes, country inns, antique shops and stone-white churches amid tree-lined streets. The choice of colors from as-

"Uh-oh, will I have enough"



CRAFTS by Victor Bella



Arts and crafts workshop

INDUSTRIAL artist and painter Victor Bella, a graduate of fine arts at the Maastricht Academy of Visual Arts, Holland, will open a new schedule of his "Arts Inspiration Series for Fun, Gift-Giving and Profit." The workshop schedule and description can be accessed at www.geocities.com/victor_bella/schedule.html. For work samples, visit www.geocities.com/victor_bella.

Group courses include artistic candle-making with decorative mold-making, decorative painting on glass, metal and ceramics, acrylic painting on canvas, flower sculpture, figurine-making and decorative silicon rubber mold-making.

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Participants will receive complete, updated and world-standard information with hands-on application. Call 890-3778 or 0917-7576690. All visits are strictly by appointment. Lessons on candle-making will begin on Oct. 20 to 21 at 30 Polaris St., Bel-Air, Makati.

Logo design contest

TO CELEBRATE the valiant spirit of the Pinoy, Arjo Wiggins, which produces Conqueror paper, and local distributor Star Paper Corp., recently launched the 4th Conqueror Logo Design Competition.

Open to all Filipino professional artists and designers in Metro Manila (except employees of Star Paper Corp.), the competition runs until Oct. 30. Participants are required to interpret the theme "The Filipino Conqueror." Conqueror starter kits consisting of five sheets of 8.5" x 11" paper, envelopes and calling cards, may be obtained from Star Paper main office or any of its designated representatives, free of charge. Twenty finalists will be given prizes, with the top entry winning P60,000 and a trophy, and two creative prize awardees bringing home P15,000 each and plaques. No entry fee is required.

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"ON MY WAY TO PROVIDENCE"



"SECRET GARDEN"

sorted cotton fabrics is striking. The colors are luminous, clearly symbolic of the autumnal hues and the wintry breeze soon to come.

Celtic

Another representative work, "Treasured Memories of Cornwall," is inspired by her visit to this county lying at the end of England's southwest peninsula, a former Celtic kingdom, the land of legends and romance, of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. The scene here is of ever-changing and undulating rhythms of the English countryside as seen through the gently rolling hills and thatched cottages and ancient farmhouses, all captured in Abundo's magisterial choice of fabric palette.

In "Thousand Treasures," Abundo pays homage to the extensive collection of cotton fabrics, which she has meticulously fashioned into a

grid of right angle triangles, sewn together from a 2x2-inch finished square. The pieces, arranged in diagonal rows of light and dark prints, had been washed and pressed to withstand the test of time and amply supported by an entire piece of Liberty of London cotton. Abundo can, on rare occasion, go daring with her color sense and experimentation as in "Happy Colors," where, working with the traditional Fields and Furrows Log Cabin design, she has pieced from Liberty of London navy blue cotton and brightly colored candy strips. These are arranged to form diagonal stripes illustrating the highs and lows of a newly plowed field.

Playful

Evidently more playful in spirit is "Yo-Yo," which she made in 1991 in New York. The yo-yo patchwork technique, which dates back to the pre-Victorian era, is given a fresh new look with this unorthodox piece. All told, it has 576 yo-yos of varied colors, which, when loosely hung, creates a descending V design.

Abundo, as gleaned from this exhibit, is an indefatigable traveler, whose wanderlust has taken her to countries and cultures across the globe. (She is slated to go from here to London where the exhibit has been booked.) In an unpredictable twist of fate, she has come home to the country of her birth not merely to rekindle friendships and kinship with former associates and long-lost relatives she hasn't seen in a long time.

Although she has now become a citizen of the world, uprooted from the land of her birth by her work and the rare opportunities that have come her way, Edna Abundo remains a Filipina at heart, yearning for hearth and home, and her compatriots, the very people that have made her what she is today. In this esoteric medium of fabric, she has deepened our appreciation of life and art which she has painstakingly crafted to form windows that open up to a world of infinite possibilities.

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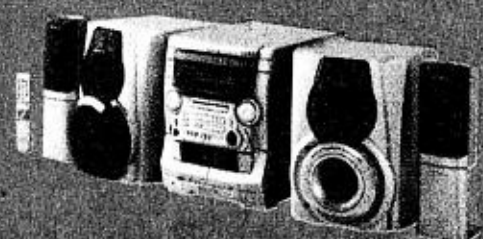
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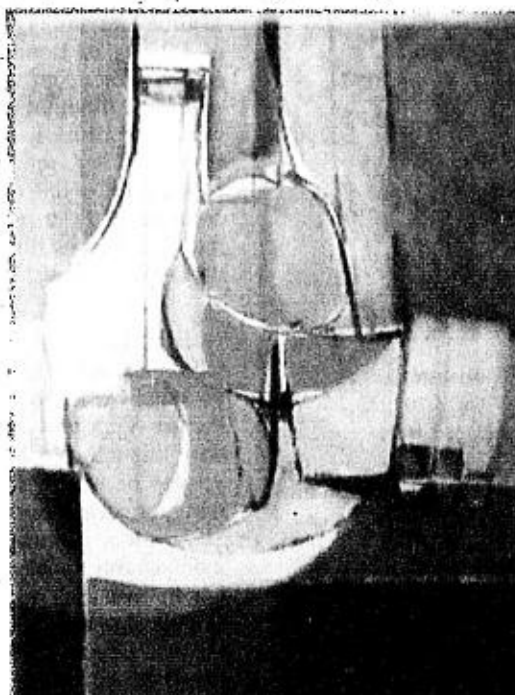
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Bitanga at Asia Art Gallery, Cordero at the Finale, Africa at 139



"JACKSON Brown Don't Turn Me Down," mixed media on handmade paper, is part of the exhibit "Images of the Cordilleras" by Willy Magtibay at Silahis Arts and Artifacts (3/F Glorietta 4, Makati City). The exhibit runs until Oct. 31. Call 728-4961 or 527-2113.



"STILL Life" by Rosario Bitanga at Asia Art Gallery

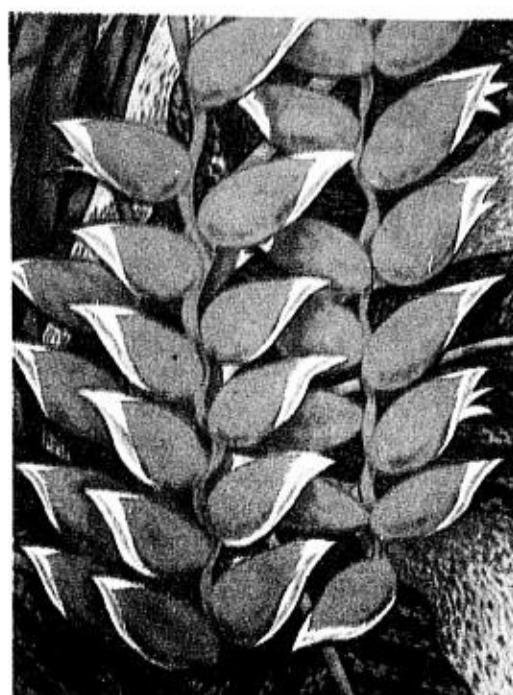
ROSARIO Bitanga holds her latest exhibit, "Steel and Still Life," at the Asia Art Gallery, 6/F Shangri-La Plaza, Shaw Boulevard corner Edsa, Mandaluyong City.

CORDERO AT THE FINALE GALLERY. Louie Cordero will mount his second solo exhibit, "Transmissions," on Oct. 16-29 at Finale Art Gallery, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Cordero's works incorporate images appropriated from religious stamps and pop culture. Call 634-2410/2411.

VISUAL ARTS

AFRICA AT GALLERY 139. A collection of tempera paintings with tropical floral themes by Susan Africa will be presented for the first time at the Gallery 139 (Artwalk, 4/L Building A, SM Megamall) on Oct. 25 to Nov. 6. "Floral Melodies" draws inspiration from tropical flower variations as well as musical concepts derived from instruments, composers and classical compositions. Rendered in an impressionistic style, the paintings are characterized by bright, attractive hues rendered on bromeliad and heliconia themes. Call 633-7363.

SALINGPUSA AT BOSTON GALLERY. The An-



"HELICONIAN Polyphonics," tempera on matte board by Susan Africa at Gallery 139, SM Megamall

tipolo-based Salingpusa holds an exhibit at the Boston Gallery (72-A Boston St., Cubao, QC). Artists include Rolando Acuña, Elmer Borlongan, Emmanuel Garibay, Antonio Leño, Erwin Leño, Neil Manalo, Ferdinand Montemayor, Andy Orenco, Jim Orenco, Anthony Palomo, Mikel Parial, Jose Santos III, Tammy Tan and Gemo Tapales. Until Oct. 30. Call 722-9205.

ESPAÑOLA AT GALLERY 5 IN DAVAO. Alexander Moscoso Espanola mounts "Shell-Out" at Gallery 5 (5/L JS Citimall, Davao). The exhibit explores the various dimensions of the shell, how our perception changes as the subject is juxtaposed through colors.

CASTILLO AT AVELLANA GALLERY. Bobby Castillo is holding "Firebox Lava," featuring his recent works at the Avellana Art Gallery (220 Fresno Road, Pasay City) until Oct. 31. Call 522-9793/94.

WORKSHOP. The Metropolitan Museum will hold a lighting design workshop on Oct. 24-26. Prominent lighting technician Naomi "Shoko" Matsumoto of the Sinag Arts Foundation will facilitate the workshop. Reservations are accepted until Oct. 22. Call 523-7855.

Young sculptors

(From page D7)

objects and recreating them in resin gives his works a rather surreal feature.

Dalena, who is popular for her terra-cotta cats in relief and sculpture, will display some of these works plus a new terra-cotta piece of a little girl seemingly lost in the vast open space of the lobby.

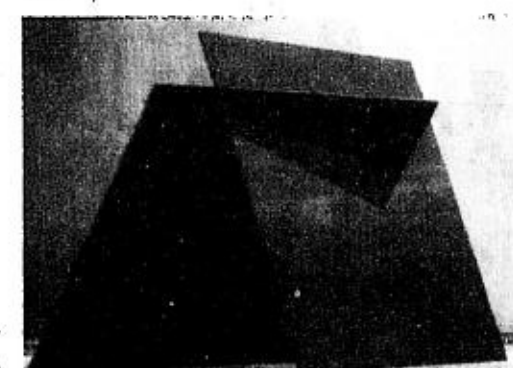
Taniguchi will showcase her nearly life-sized resin cast of a human figure, often found in neoclassical sculptures.

Alcazaren reworks a 10-ft sculpture made of everyday objects—wire, plastic rope and other found materials—by placing a mirror at the bottom of the piece to create an illusion of length and continuity. Chan's "Tears" shows a man's face outlined in a sculpture-fountain of red fiberglass. Sadness is depicted in water flowing from the sides of the man's face like tears.

Jardiniano's 8-ft piece of a winged seed, made of welded steel, is left untreated but waxed to arrest further rusting. What result from this method are textures that create an imprint on the material.

The oblique planes of steel plates point upward, acknowledging the 60-ft high ceiling of the lobby. Yuson's "Reclining Squares" recognizes the symmetry and hollowness of the lobby. Known for his use of various industrial materials in his art, Yuson chooses to make works that are site-specific and continues to use new technology in his works.

HSBC, following its global support for arts and culture, has organized the "2001 Young Sculptors' Show" to create a stronger appreciation for the arts among its customers and the public. "By making their works accessible to a wider audience, we hope to help recognize these artists and encourage them further to pursue their craft," says Paul Lawrence, chief executive officer.



"RECLINING Squares" by Reggie Yuson



"ROCKING Chair" by Dan Rarallo

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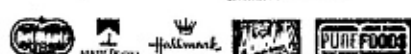
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THE YOUNG SCULPTORS. Dan Rarallo, Tito Sanchez, Magdiwang Jardiniano, Maria Taniguchi, Eng Chan, Aba Dalena, Raggle Yuson and Juan Alcazaren.

Young sculptors show wares at Enterprise Center



EIGHT contemporary Filipino sculptors are set to display their brand of cutting-edge art in the "2001 Young Sculptors' Show" on Oct. 22-26 at the central lobby of The Enterprise Center, headquarters of the show's main proponent, the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. Limited.

The "2001 Young Sculptors' Show" is a rare collaboration among contemporary Filipino sculptors—Juan Alcazaren, Eng Chan, Aba Dalena, Magdiwang Jardiniano, Dan Rarallo, Tito Sanchez, Maria Taniguchi and Reggie Yuson.

The ground floor lobby of the Enterprise Center, with its clean, contemporary space and minimal architectural detail, will provide the proper milieu for the type of sculptures made by today's Filipino artists. For this show, the sculptors will display works that provide the contrast between the vast ground space and the high ceiling by creating low floor pieces. Others will take advantage of the vertical stretch by making tall, free-standing sculptures.

While many of Tito Sanchez's works were done in the tradition of classical carving, he now favors modeling with bronze and other metals. He will showcase a bronze marquette of "Gomburza," a fresh portrayal of the three martyr-priests. Sanchez frees them from the stereotyped representation of death by showing their heads held high and their robes gently swaying with the breeze.

Best known for his realistic portrayal of pillows and human torso on relief, Rarallo will display "Rocking Chair." His painstaking method of casting

YOUNG/p.D6

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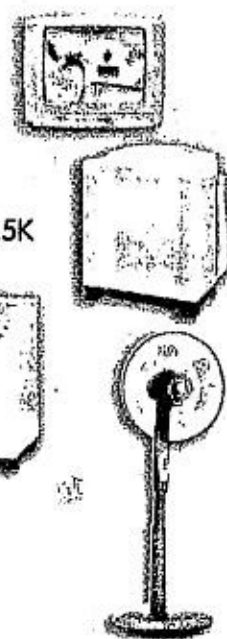
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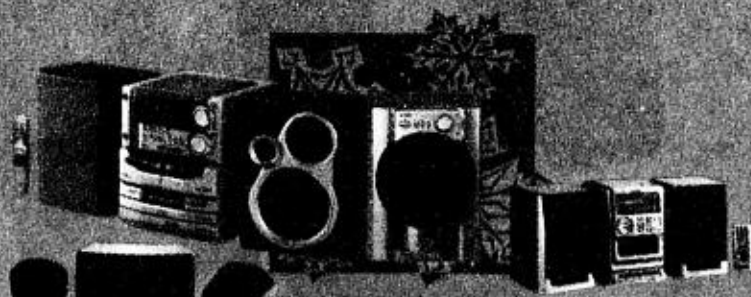
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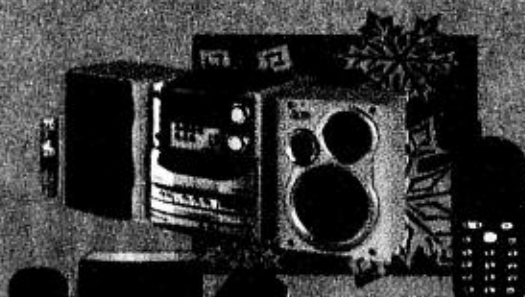
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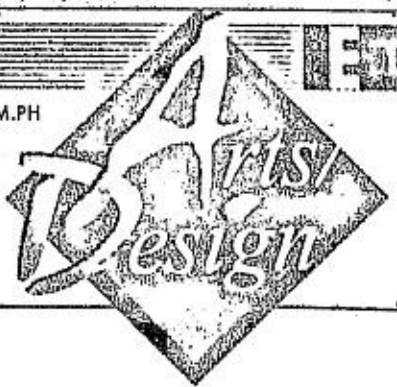
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EXCLUSIVE

'Flower Drum Song' gets standing ovation on its first preview performance

FRESH from a preview opening night performance capped by a standing ovation, Lea Salonga meets aspiring singer Lara Avengoza, one of the fans who waited outside the theater after the show.

BY RUBEN V. NEPALES

LOS ANGELES—The critics verdict will not be in until after "Flower Drum Song" officially opens on Oct. 14, but the audience on the first night of the shows preview performances last Tuesday gave its verdict.

As the radically different production of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical climaxed on the Mark Taper Forum stage, the audience rose on its feet and applauded a visibly surprised and delighted Lea Salonga, elegant in a red Chinese wedding gown with veil, and her fellow cast members. Since this was a preview show, it will not be fair to comment on the performance, but it should suffice to mention that "Flower Drum Song," as re-written by preeminent Asian-American playwright David Henry Hwang, is a star ve-

FLOWER/p.E2

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'Flower Drum Song' gets standing ovation on its first preview performance

(From page E1)

hicle for Salonga.

This revival, the only musical in the Rodgers and Hammerstein treasure trove of stage classics allowed by the famous pair's heirs to be rewritten, is now closer in spirit to C.Y. Lee's 1957 novel, "The Flower Drum Song." ("The" was dropped when the book, which Hwang considers "a classic of Chinese-American culture," was adapted for the stage and then for the screen.) C.Y. Lee, who is now 83 years old, reportedly wrote the novel while holed up in a room above a Filipino restaurant in San Francisco.

Hwang's new libretto is still set in the late 1950s San Francisco Chinatown but tries to avoid the Broadway and Hollywood versions' dated and stereotypical portrayal of Asian-Americans. Salonga's Mei-Li is no longer a picture bride. She escapes from Communist China and ends up in a Chinese opera theater in San Francisco that stages a Western-style revue on certain



nights in order to survive. The dramatic and comedic onstage and backstage goings-on ruminate on the issues of assimilation, cultural identity and tradition versus modernity polemics.

The 750-seat Mark Taper Forum provides intimacy and immediacy that the nearby 2,000-seat Ahmanson Theatre cannot offer (the revival was originally planned for the Ahmanson last season but financing difficulties encouraged a more feasible production at the smaller Mark Taper). Not that the show appears to scrimp on production values—the costumes, for instance, were crowd pleasers last Tuesday evening.

In a physically demanding role, Salonga performs a Chinese warrior dance and other choreographed vignettes, beats a flower drum and is onstage in most of the show's two-hour plus running time. The audience gave Salonga its biggest applause when she sang "Love Look Away."

This theater event, directed and choreographed by Robert Longbottom, is also a star-



SALONGA with two other fans, Ella (left) and Nikki Nepales, by a "Flower Drum Song" billboard outside the Mark Taper Forum

PHOTOS BY JANET R. NEPALES

making vehicle for Salonga's leading man, Jose Llanza, and Sandra Allen, who essays Linda Low, the Nancy Kwan role in the celluloid version. Salonga and Llanza kiss several times in the show. Toward the end, two "Miss Saigons" share, briefly, a song onstage—Salonga and Jennifer Paz, a Filipino-American who played the Vietnamese character in the Los Angeles production, is in this show's ensemble and is also the Mei-Li understudy. The packed audience also enthusiastically applauded numbers by the other principal actors: Tzi Ma, Alvin Ing, Allen Liu, Jodi Long and Ronald M. Banks.

Some members of the audience continued to cheer the cast as they came out of the backstage door. Fans besieged Salonga for pictures and autograph. One of the fans who was thrilled to meet Salonga was Lara Avengoza, an aspiring teenage singer who is a niece of Fides Cuyugan Asencio and takes voice lessons from Louie Reyes, who is now based in Los Angeles.

In a postcard sent to its subscribers this week, Mark Taper Forum announced that tickets to the show are expected to be sold out by the time the show formally opens its almost two-month run on Oct. 14.



NEW COMEDY AT REP

Renee Taylor and Joseph Bologna's comedy, "It Had to Be You," will run for three weeks at the William J. Shaw Theater, Shangri-La Plaza, Mandalayung City until Oct. 28. It will also run at the Carlos P. Romulo Theater, RCBP Plaza, Makati City from Nov. 2-11. It is about Theda Blau, a pathetic B-movie actress who has visions of finding love and success in the big city. In an audition, she meets producer and director Vito Pignoll with whom she is determined to make her dream come true, whether he likes it or not. Directed by Baby Barredo, the play stars Llesli Batucan and Jeremy Domingo. Stage design by Miguel Faustmann. Call 633-4821 to 25 or e-mail rep@brolline.com.

'Carmen' in Filipino at CCP

THE PHILIPPINE Opera Company and the Tanghalang Pilipino are holding until Oct. 21 "Trahedya ni Carmen," a Filipino adaptation of Bizet's famous opera, at the Little Theater of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Translated to Filipino by Jose Capino, the production features Jay Valencia Gloriosa and Josephine Rocas in the title role. Other performers are Nelyn Cubahug, Roeder Camanag, Karina Balajadia, Eladio Pamaran and Bong Chavez. Evening shows are at 8 every Friday and Saturday, with matinees at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Call 726-5178 or 832-3661.



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Getting to know Salonga's latest leading man

Fil-Am Jose Llana has appeared in 'Sex and the City'

BY RUBEN V. NEPALES

LOS ANGELES—Jose Llana has appeared on Broadway as Angel on "Rent" and as Lun Tha in the 1996 revival of "The King and I," but he will probably make his biggest impact as Lea Salonga's latest leading man in "Flower Drum Song."

"I was excited to hear Lea was part of the project," says Llana of being cast opposite the Tony and Laurence Olivier winning actress. "Her name and credits add credibility to the piece. She will bring in a great number of Asian-American audiences. I feel very proud that the two leads of the show are Filipino and I wear that pride every day in rehearsal and on stage."

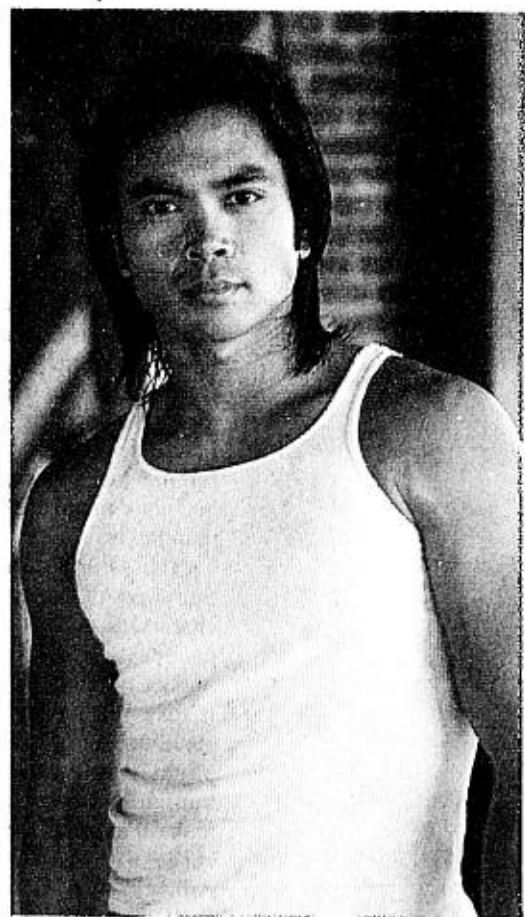
Llana plays Wang Ta, a role portrayed by James Shigeta in the 1961 film version of "Flower Drum Song." The Hawaii-born Shigeta became a Hollywood fan magazine heartthrob as a result of his performance. "I believe the Wang Ta that David Henry Hwang wrote in our version is much edgier and rebellious," Llana says on how his Wang Ta will be different from the characters film and Broadway incarnations. "He questions the traditional ways much more and is definitely much more American. I relate to his being brought up in America by foreign parents and desperately trying to find relevance in both."

Llana came to the States when he was a child. His parents are Florante Llana, who hails from Cabugao, Ilocos, and Maria Regina Tolentino Newport, who is from Marikina. He grew up in West Virginia. In the "Flower Drum Song" program, Llana dedicates his performance to his Lola ("grandmother") Nora and Lola Delang.

The tenor last appeared in Los Angeles as the villain Guillaume in Cameron Mackintosh's "Martin Guerre" at the Ahmanson Theater, which is right across the Mark Taper Forum where "Flower" is playing. The actor's Lun Tha role in the 1990s revival of "The King and I," starring Donna Murphy and Lou Diamond Phillips (another actor with Filipino heritage), marked his Broadway debut. The Manhattan School of Music trained performer also sings in the CD cast recording of that revival.

Llana's other stage credits include the title role in "Candide" at the Prince Music Theater in Philadelphia and "Tin Man Wong" in the world premier production of "Ballad of Little Jo" with Judy Kuhn at the Steppenwolf Theater in Chicago.

For "Sex and the City" fans, Llana appeared as Damian in one episode of this popular HBO series. He also appeared on the soap, "As the World Turns." Llana's other recording credits include "Adam Guettels Myths and Hymns" (Off-Broadway cast recording with acclaimed stage artists Mandy Patinkin and Audra McDonald) and "Broadway Sings Paul Simon."



LLANA has also been included in musical recordings.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3268 Series of 2001

'LA VIDA ROSA' Grit crumbling to sentimentalism

BRO. MIKE RAPATAN, FSC

CHITO Roño's "La Vida Rosa" depicts the doomed efforts of Rosa (Rosanna Roces) and her ex-con lover Dado (Diether Ocampo) to amend and reform their criminal ways. Instead of working with Lupo (Pen Medina), the new boss of the syndicate once headed by Tiyong (Vic Diaz), whom Dado murdered in retaliation for a previous offense, Rosa and Dado ignore Lupo's authority and stage a "sideline" by kidnapping Iris, the daughter of Jing (Angel Aquino), Dado's former girlfriend. With a hefty ransom of P2,000,000, Rosa and Dado first secure the future of Azon (Liza

Lorena), Rosa's blind mother, and Enteng (Jiro Manio), Rosa's street-smart son, and dispatch them to Dado's relatives in Bicol. Rosa and Dado then execute their escape plan. But on the way, they are intercepted and gunned down by Lupo's men and the police who conspire with the syndicate.

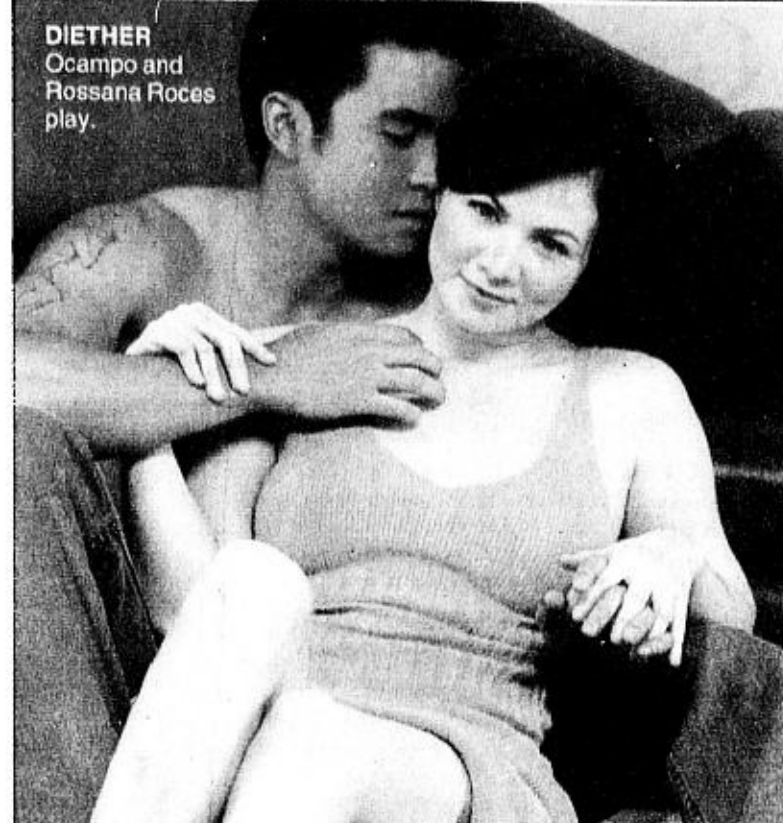
Loyalty and passion

Throughout this story, Roño weaves varying strands of loyalty, fidelity and passion. For example, beneath her sassy and scheming exterior, Roño and his screenwriter, Bing Lao, reveal Rosa's singular devotion to her mother and son as the engine of her illicit activities. In Dado's case, fidelity is obsession for a past flame who later on rejects and bans him from visiting her. For the syndicate bosses Lupo and Tiyong, loyalty entails submission to their authority. Hence,

when Rosa and Dado strike on their own and pocket the ransom money for themselves, their independence is judged as an act of treason.

Rono locates these private games of loyalty in the dark alleys, safehouses and warehouses of the city. With Gerry Pascual's production design, Jay Durias' ominous music, and Neil Daza's chiaroscuro cinematography, Roño deftly evokes the gangsters' twilight world of corruption, deception and retribution. One memorable sequence that captures the ethos of this world is the scene where Rosa and Lupo are negotiating a deal over dinner. Roño has the scene lit in a way where deep shadows are cast on them with sharp lines that seem to split their faces. As the rival gangsters talk, they move in and out of the shadows to signify their growing distrust of each other as well as their own interior decay.

Although Roño effectively integrates various production elements to convey key insights about the characters' competing codes of loyalty, he



DIETHER Ocampo and Rosanna Roces play

misses out on making us empathize with his lead characters' simple desires for a better life. Roces and Ocampo try to hook us into their characters' dreams but somehow they remain remote and distant. When they die in the end, one experiences neither pity nor condemnation for their crimes. Their deaths come off more like a relief to the viewer who feels that their emotional lives onscreen have long dipped and hit a flat line.

Lack of chemistry

One reason for this may lie in Roces and Ocampo's lack of chemistry and on the narrative level, the absence of any palpable bond connecting the two. In fact, in one major scene, Rosa uncovers Dado's duplicity for living with her. She fumes upon sensing Dado's tacit admission of loving her not for who she is but for who she knows and the protection she can give to him. She tries to insulate herself from more heartbreaks by packing his things and sending him away. Yet in a later scene when Dado asks her to marry him, she earnestly smiles. Because one is never shown how Rosa has resolved Dado's indifference (their argument is interrupted by a friend's sudden invitation to a dinner party), one finds her assent to Dado's subsequent proposal superficial and incredulous. The gritty self that Roces has been adeptly projecting crumbles in her display of wimpy romantic sentiments. Her femme fatale persona becomes more femme than fatale.

Thus, Roño softens the angst of his main characters and in the process, dulls the impact of their death. It may seem that this stylization of their plight is a means to humanize them and make them look more three-dimensional. Arthur Penn in "Bonnie and Clyde" (which this film's publicity materials cite as a reference film for the final bloody shoot-out) applied this approach to much success. It worked because his delineation of his characters' backstage behavior stocked with vignettes of their past history and personal agenda for adventure helped us understand the spirit of their partnership and outpouring of rage against social conventions. If "La Vida Rosa" was imbued with a similar treatment, it could have been a coherent film throbbing with compassion.



JON Red

Digital film comes of age

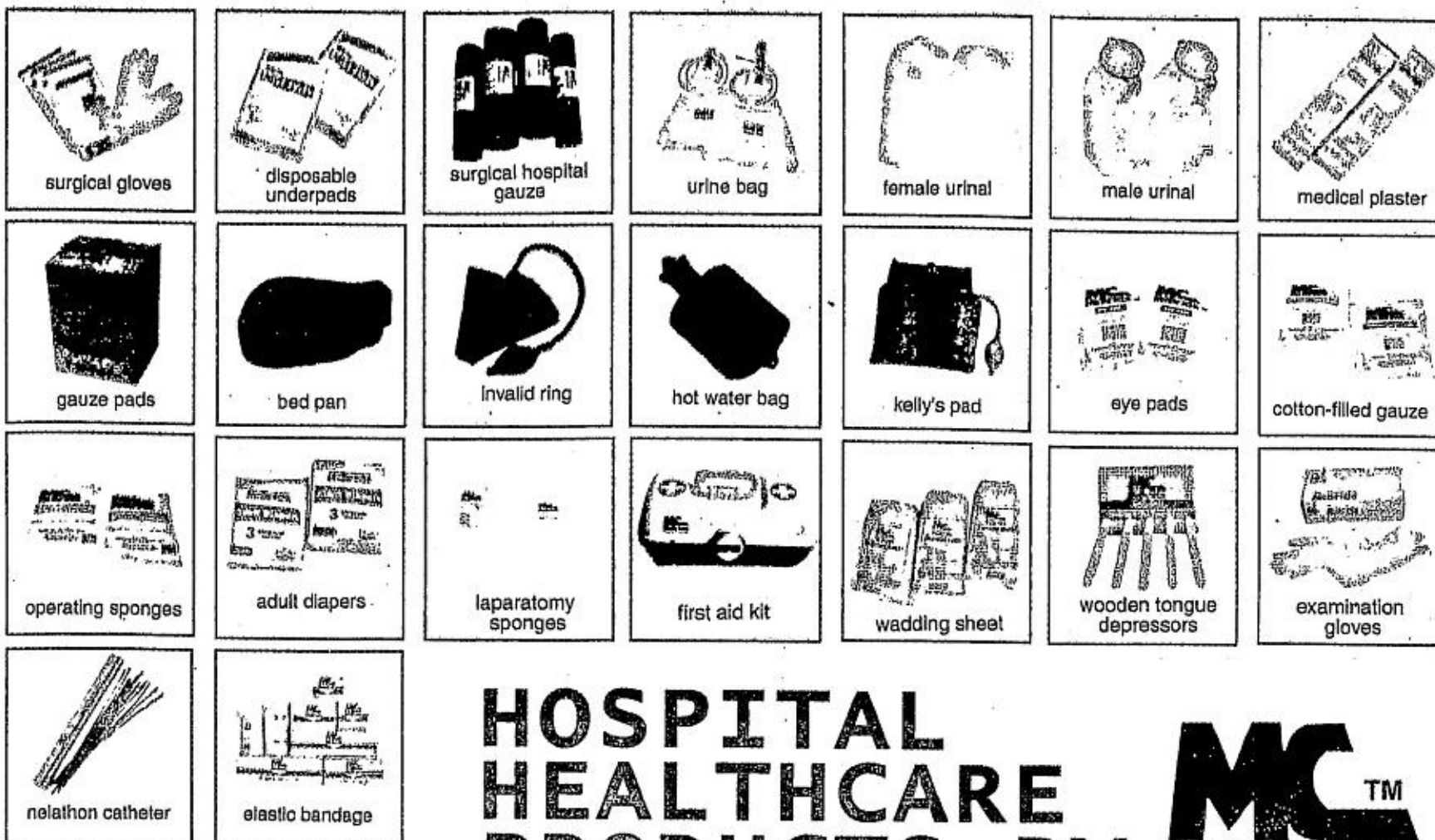
BY JEREMY C. MALCAMPO

ART film enthusiasts gathered recently to hail Jon Red's pioneering work, "Still Lives," recently at the Insomnia Techno Bar in Malate, Manila. This full-length still-framed digital opus, the first of its kind, stunned viewers for defying the rules of cinematic technique with its camera that doesn't budge throughout the playing time.

Written and directed by Jon Red, "Still Lives" features the narcotic underworld and its denizens. Though the framing remains still, it offers a panorama of scenic and character twists. It is set in a drug supply house. The audience is introduced to a drug-addicted character comically narrating the different uses of drug. The cuss words are plenty. The actors such as Joel Torre and Allan Paule perform creditably. The work with its limited setting and framing is much like a one-act-play.

Despite the limitation, the movie portrays a wide array of characters, without the attributes of a commercialized film. Solid proof that the gap between commercial movies and the garage film is just an aperture apart from each other.

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SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA



BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX



HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

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Happy Birthday: Put your sophisticated and well-conceived ideas in motion. Your wit and candor will earn the respect you're looking for. You're feeling positive, and things are turning around for you. Good times are ahead, and the more you give of yourself, the more you'll get back. Your numbers are 11, 15, 19, 20, 24, 36

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Being in business for yourself is a good idea. Your ideas are on target, and your work is commendable, but keep priorities straight and don't neglect your personal life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): It's time to focus on yourself. This is a great day to start that new health regimen. Changes to enhance your appearance will lead to more social activity.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can make money by playing your cards right. Real-estate investments will be advantageous and perhaps help to boost your position in society. Enlist family and friends and consider their feelings.

CANCER (June 21-July 21): Friends and relatives may not understand your needs unless they're spelled out loud and clear. It's time to talk with unfiltered truthfulness. Change is on its way.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will have a difficult time keeping things to yourself. Be careful. Someone's feelings may be hurt if you divulge information. Contribute to a worthy cause, which will increase your popularity.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Do what you can, and others will join in. You will have to set the standard in order to see progress today. Get busy instead of angry. Organize responsibilities and delegate work.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Enjoy what life has to offer. Entertainment should include loved ones. Short trips promise a carefree environment. You don't need to spend a lot to have a good time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Show just how dedicated a person you can be. You love to put effort into worthwhile causes. The more involved you are in charity work, the more satisfaction you will receive.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Contracts and agreements will not be clear-cut, so examine the fine print before signing. Someone may be trying to take advantage of you. Make your living space more comfortable.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't sit around doing nothing. Plan to do some research on your own. If you drop in to visit a client, you will make a friend. Your hands-on assistance will speak for itself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Stop dawdling and put your place in order. You will feel energized. The dust is settling, so make the necessary adjustments. Once complete, you'll be back in the game.

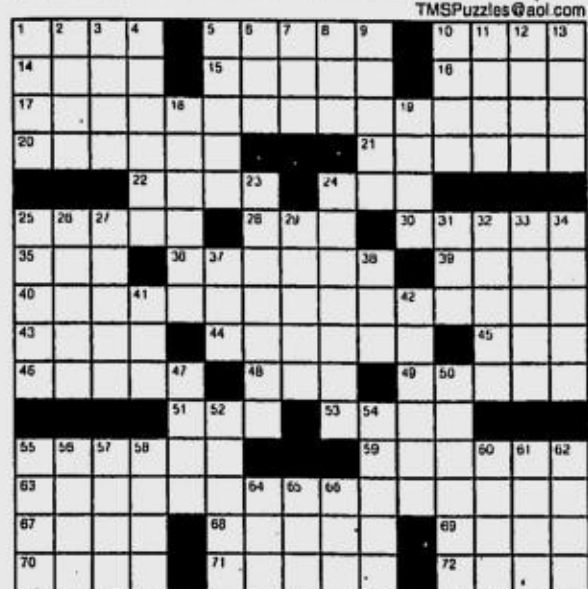
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Partnerships with creative people will lead to financial gains. It's time to stabilize your future. You can make promises that were impossible in the past.

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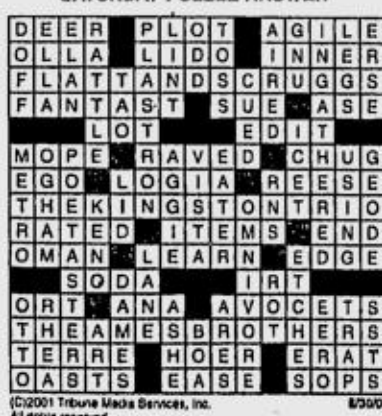
ACROSS

- 1 First light
- 5 Joker
- 10 Pollution woe
- 14 Hodgepodge
- 15 "Laughing" critter
- 16 Tibetan monk
- 17 Breakfast selections
- 20 Changes the labeling
- 21 Royalty fur
- 22 German three
- 24 Wolfed down
- 25 Lunar aspect
- 28 Gear feature
- 30 Pessimistic expectation
- 35 Sympathetic attention
- 36 Music player
- 39 Impoverished
- 40 Lunch selections
- 43 Writer Bagnold
- 44 More daring
- 45 Celebration night



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

SATURDAY PUZZLE ANSWER



DOWN

- 1 Portal
- 2 Winglike structures
- 3 Skater Katarina
- 4 Wanderers
- 5 Chevy without wheels?
- 6 Popeye's Olive
- 7 culpa
- 8 Lodging house
- 9 Annapolis student
- 10 Close with a bang
- 11 Bethlehem visitors
- 12 Portent
- 13 Nor'easter, e.g.
- 18 Way out
- 19 Concoct
- 23 Winter craft
- 24 Meeting plans
- 25 Saenger and Sampras
- 26 Hangout
- 27 Weinmeister or Ferrin
- 29 Certain exams
- 31 Antithesis; abbr.
- 32 Cowpoke, at times
- 33 Figure out
- 34 Kilmer poem
- 37 Place for three men
- 38 Pindaric
- 41 Fruit drink
- 42 More or less
- 47 College marching grp.
- 50 Produce provider
- 52 Wedding party member
- 54 Control board
- 55 Staff sign
- 56 Molten flow
- 57 Give out
- 58 Up to the job
- 60 1996 candidate
- 61 go brag!
- 62 Duncan's dagger
- 64 Grand Opry
- 65 Dad
- 66 Simlan

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER



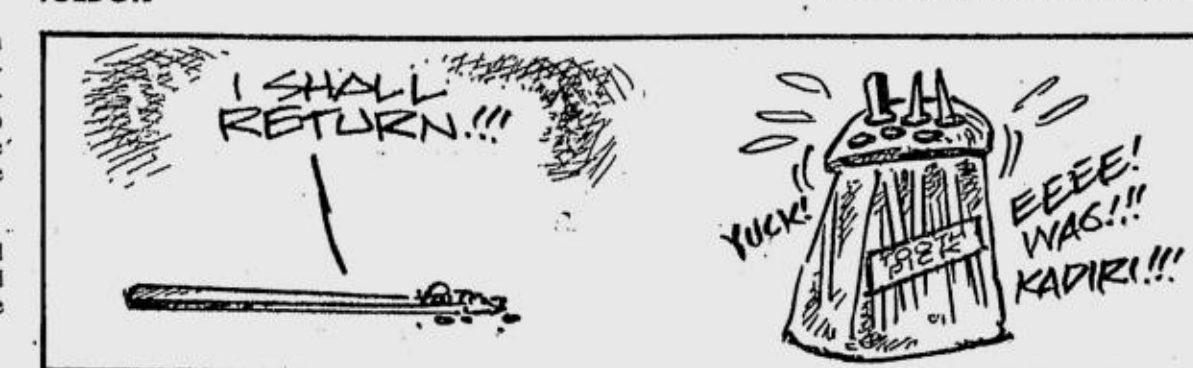
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING





ASIAN CHILDREN'S PLAY BY PETA

The Philippine Educational Theater's "Mga Kuwentong Asyano" goes onstage at the Santiago Hall of Equitable PCIBank Tower II in Makati Avenue, Oct. 17-20. Written by Rody Vera, the play gives Filipino audiences a glimpse into the hearts of Asian peoples rarely seen in popular media, through children's stories from myths in India, Japan, Korea and Vietnam. Shows are at 3 p.m. There will be a morning show at 10 p.m. on Oct. 20. Call 410-0822 and 724-9637 or e-mail peta@drama.com.ph

Bayanihan shows there's life after 40

THE ORIGINAL members of the 44-year-old Bayanihan Philippine Dance Company will show their impeccable talents in a night of pure ballroom dancing. Titled "Break a Leg at 44," the affair will take place today at the Savannah

Moon on E. Rodriguez Avenue, Libis, QC.

The committee on "Break a Leg at 44" is chaired by Maribel Carag-Dario and Chari Lagdameo, with members Mara Enrile and Madge Tuviera.



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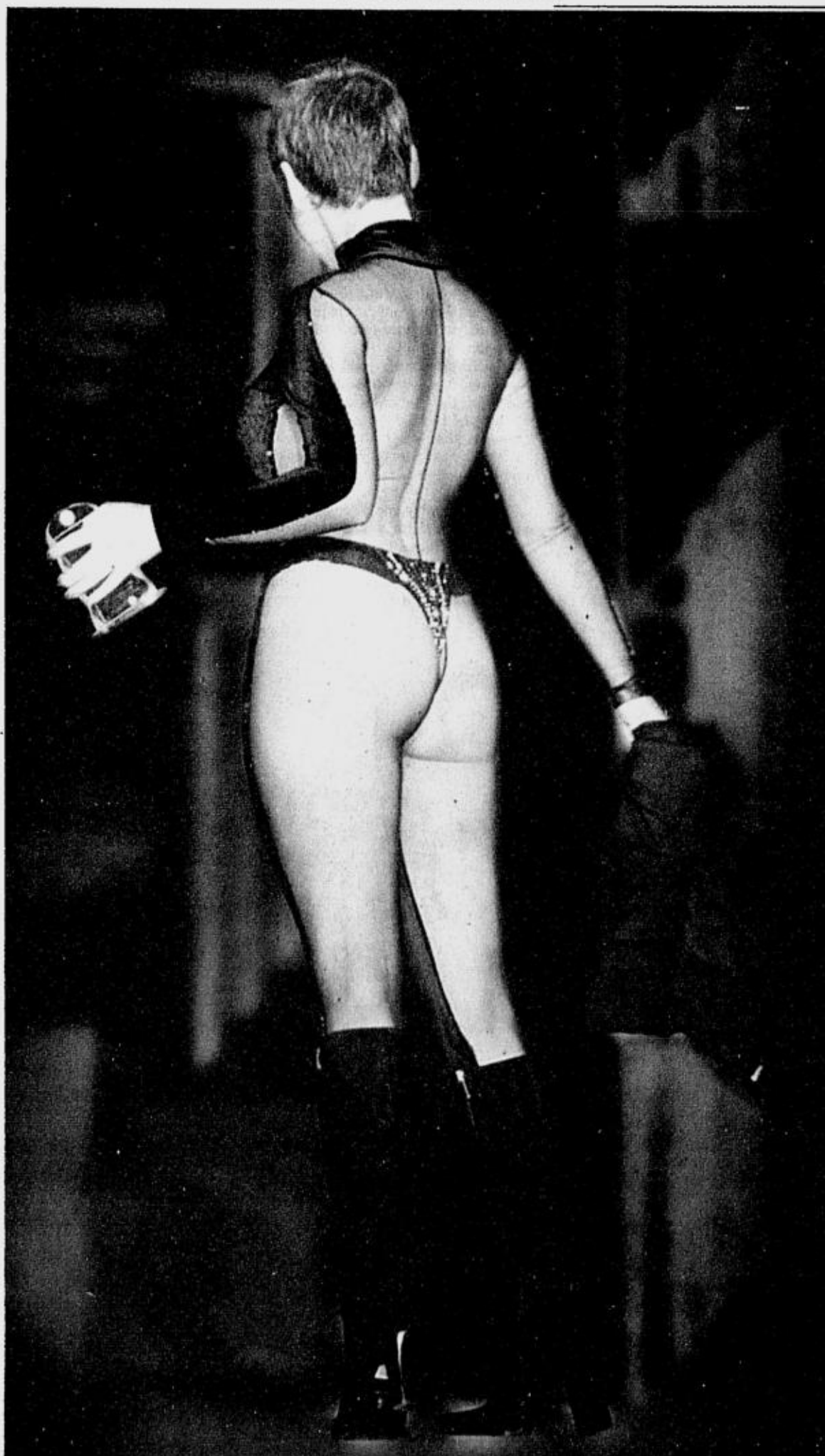
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PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON



TWEETUMS Gonzales, Marit and Tito Yuchengco



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BAE Magdalena Pontongon, Jose Akmad and Melinda Prieto receiving plaque from Eduardo Ermita and Ambassador Collins



SEATED (L-R): Leslie Stokes, Ambassador Alan Collins, Manuel Panglilan, Harriet Fletcher; standing: Juan Santos, Maria P. Rubio and Eduardo Ermita

British 'interests' in Mindanao

IN THE MIDST of scandals and terrorism and bad news, it is heartening to know about the launch of a new pilot project in Mindanao by the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), British Business Association and the Prince of Wales Int'l. Business Leaders Forum (IBLF). The launch was hosted by the British Embassy at Ambassador and Ms Alan Collins' residence.

The project will be implemented by PBSP and IBLF to seek peace through social investment and commitments by companies in Mindanao. At the same

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

time, another British Embassy conflict-prevention project, Peaceweavers: A Cross-Cultural Dialogue, was highlighted. The project helps create an unofficial peace process among the grassroots communities directly affected by the Mindanao conflict.

(Moreover, there are 500,000 displaced persons living in camps today in Mindanao. Oxfam and the ICRC have donated £250,000 for their humanitarian relief.)

The majority of Filipinos aren't aware that the UK is the No. 1 investor in the Philippines today and the Embassy is involved in various human rights projects in communities and schools around the country, including Save the Children Fund UK and British Gas, with four local partners in Mindanao, three in Davao and one in Pagadian. Another new project supports the establishment of a network of women and children protection units in hospitals across the country. There is also a two-year project in Davao to train police and social workers on handling cases of violence against women, create a unified referral system, formulate guidelines and an interagency approach to the problem, and foster a gender-sensitive public management.

For its project designed to enhance the knowledge and skills of investigators from the Commission on Human Rights, the Embassy was awarded the human rights project of the year award in 2000 by the Human Rights Department in London.

Last Saturday, despite the heavy rainfall, dozens of friends from the diplomatic corps, the former Friends of the CCP, Catholic Women's Club and the San Antonio Parish came together for the first death anniversary

of Doña Salud Tesoro at a Mass officiated by Father Tony, hosted by the Tesoro offspring. Newly revived Manila Symphony Orchestra serenaded the dinner guests who enjoyed their *lechon*, steaks, chicken pastel and *gindara*, not to mention, wonderful *halo-halo*.

Seen in the crowd were glamorous Chitang Guerrero and equally glamorous daughter Gemma Araneta. Arturo and Marilen Rocha, Fausto and Consuelo Preysler, Abia and Tony Assad, Thelma Gana, Cez Manalo, former Ambassador Isabel Wilson, Karen Macasaet and Tessie Luz (who would take off soon for Taiwan to celebrate a granddaughter's birthday), Mari Lacson (who proclaimed that round-trip tickets to NY were available for only \$390), and other admirers of the redoubtable Doña Salud!

While grandfather Al Yuchengco (soon to be Philippine representative to the UN?) received still another award from the accountants association at the RBC Plaza, grandson Paulo Abaya celebrated the first anniversary of his highly successful Japanese restaurant Ebisu in Bel-Air with the fourth generation of Yuchengcos.

Uncle Tito was there with chic wife Marit, who's back to fighting form, proudly showing off photos of 6-month-old Daniel. Aunt Liza, publisher of Filipinas, a magazine published in San Francisco, came home to celebrate a joint birthday with mommie, Paz Sycep Yuchengco. Not to forget Aunt Bella, really slim as a reed at size 2, who will do home catering for small and elegant dinner parties.

In case you're an Almodovar fan, there will a month-long festival of his films at the Instituto Cervantes this month. His award-winning "Todo Sobre mi Madre" will be shown on Oct. 27. Or you might want to watch the Flamenco Festival from Oct. 19-20 at the RBC Plaza, and contemporary Spanish songs with Eugenia Echarren (soprano) and Miguel Aguirre (piano), also at RBC, on Oct. 15. Well-known Spanish guitarist Armando Orbon performs on Oct. 17.



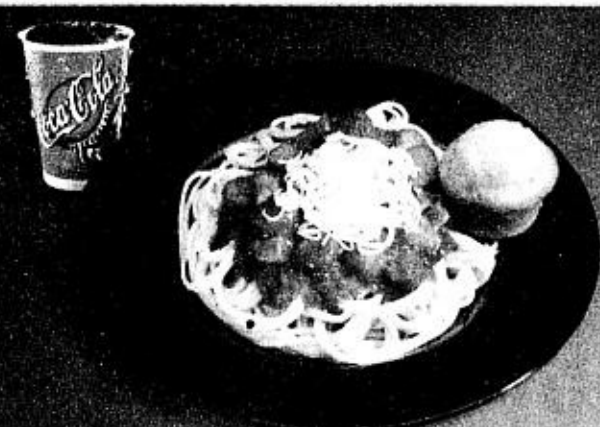
STANDING (L-R): Mita Gutierrez, Lulu Castañeda, Dolly del Rosario, Tito Tesoro; seated (L-R): Beng Tesoro, Alice Guerrero and Dettie Carvanagan



BELLA Yuchengco, Paulo Abaya, Paz Yuchengco and Liza Yuchengco

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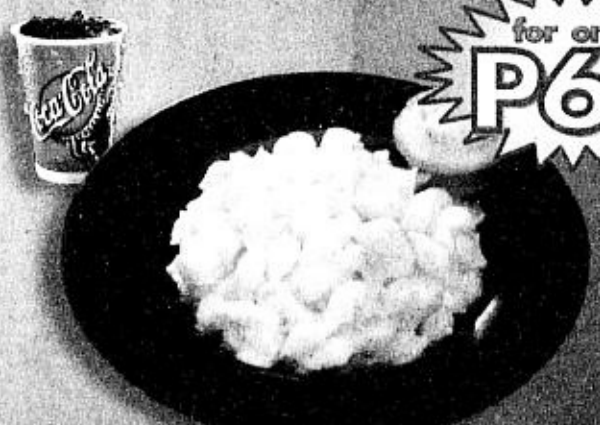
spaghetti, muffin & 340 ml. coke



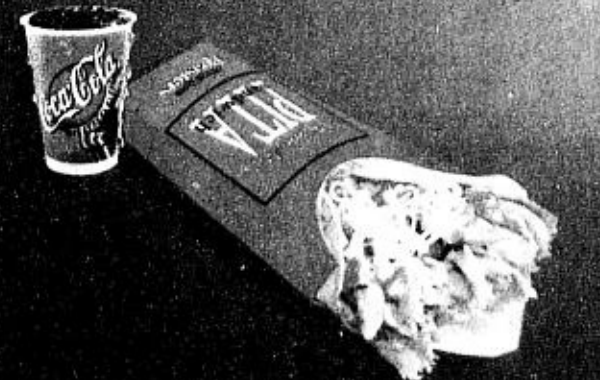
spaghetti, muffin & 340 ml. coke



mac & cheese, muffin & 340 ml. coke



mac & cheese, muffin & 340 ml. coke



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Filipino artists continue to make beautiful music despite war jitters

BY PABLO TARIMAN

DID Filipino artists pause from, or rather, stop, making music after attacks on the World Trade Center and the subsequent bombing of Afghanistan?

They didn't for there were no cancellations of concert events in any of the leading venues for the performing arts.

In Florida, no amount of hijacking and anthrax scares could stop pianists Ingrid Sala Santamaria and Reynaldo Reyes from holding their "Piano Concerto Journey" at the Royal Palm Beach, where they gave two concerts sponsored by Crestwood Performing Arts League (CPAL). As in their earlier journeys in Cebu, Davao, Tuguegarao, Isabela, Catanduanes and Bangkok, Santamaria and Reyes played the Grieg, Schumann, Rachmaninoff II and the Tchaikovsky concertos to appreciative audiences. They were invited again by CPAL president Richard Nielsen to perform in the western communities of Florida.

At the Francisco Santiago Hall, one got a glimpse of the evolution of a composer in a three-hour performance devoted to the works of Jeffrey Ching who might yet come up with a contemporary work dealing with the attacks on the World Trade Center.

Do I hear a concert paraphrase of Britten's War Requiem?

Of that night's offering, the most substantial was the first number, Terra Kytaorum (Souvenir Des Yuan), described as Rondo-Variations for Ten Brasses and Three Percussionists. The drum performance of percussionist Arnel Feliciano actually set the mood for the piece and I thought it was the most cohesive and moving piece of the evening. The Philippine Brass Ensemble conducted by Rodel Colmenar gave a seamless presentation.

Pianist J. Greg Zuniega got to the bottom of the piece in the finale from Sonata in F Major, cellist Renato Lucas emerged unscathed in Souvenir Des Song (Variations on a Song Dynasty) for unaccompanied cello and the audience went through a perilous moment trying to figure out a piece for violin and prepared piano for Coke Bolipata and Nita Abrogar Quinto. The sound of the keyboard in this piece was blurred and muffled by pins stuck on the piano strings and it reminded me of an upright piano I discovered in a Bicol island after 50 years of not being used.

Le Nozze, performed by the Ma-



PIANISTS Reynaldo Reyes and Ingrid Sala Santamaria (second and third from left, respectively) after a successful concert at the Royal Palm Beach in Florida with (from left) Frank Bostwick, Bonnie Goldberg, Jess Santamaria and Richard Nielsen who are original founders of the Crestwood Performing Arts League (CPAL) in Florida.

nila Symphony Orchestra Strings, soprano Lisa Cabahug and tenor Nolin Cabahug, was the night's most tonal number and to many in the audience, it was a big relief after uneasy moments with the "prepared piano" and the "prepared" cello.

The finale number with the orchestra conducted by Arturo Molina was no walk in the park for the vocal soloists who must have felt being hijacked while connecting the text (Alleluia) with the notes which left no easy path for breathing before the players could negotiate the high registers of the piece.

But I suppose, this is the challenge of interpreting Jeffrey Ching's pieces. He has had enough of the conventional sounds and he will not be tied to any school of musical thought. Listening to his works is a journey to the unknown and the unfamiliar and you emerge richer, thinking that there must be more to music than just reliving the sounds of Mozart and Beethoven.

Still at the Francisco Santiago Hall in another concert sponsored by the MCO Foundation, soprano Rachelle Gerodias gave a superb recital with pianist Najib Ismail on the piano. The Bach opening pieces, Mein Glaube Herz and Bist Du Bei Mir, were in good taste. Among the art songs category, the Tchaikovsky piece Nur were die Sehnsucht (None But The Lonely

Heart) was the most touching. Gerodias's duet with tenor Lemuel de la Cruz in the excerpts from Una Cosa Rara (by Martin and Soler) was the night's superb vocal treat. The soprano was in good shape and tenor de la Cruz, taking off from O ciel, che duro passo, negotiated the aria's difficult passages and any singer who emerged alive in this

piece should be crowned Prince of Uneasy High Notes.

This tenor has more to offer in the art songs category and is equally astounding in little known operas such as Una Casa Rara.

At the Cultural Center of the Philippines, violinist Gina Medina excellently accompanied by J. Greg

FILIPINO/p.F2

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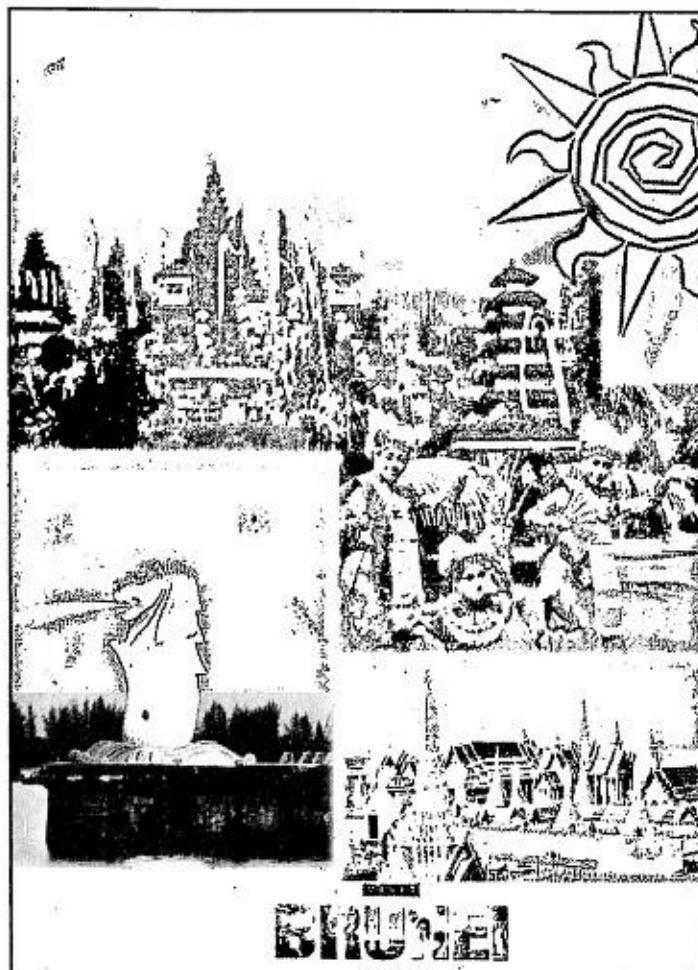
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Filipino artists continue to make beautiful music despite war jitters

(From page F1)

Zuniega gave a recital of Vivaldi, Brahms, Chausson and Ravel pieces. Medina is a conscientious player and it is both an asset and liability. It served her in good stead in Vivaldi's Sonata in Re which was solid and firm as it was truly limned in the Baroque style. But this approach didn't quite work in Brahms's Sonata No. 3 where mere correct notes would not just do. Medina did as well in Chausson's Poeme. She did extremely well in the Filipino folksongs (Bahay Kubo and Pamulinawen) arranged by Gilopez Kabayao, who attended the concert.

At Cebu City's Provincial Capitol Social, Japanese pianist Kenjie Watanabe made his Visayan debut courtesy of the Salvador and Pilar Sala Foundation.

Beethoven C Minor Sonata ("Pathetique") was well-grounded but it must have been the sounding board of the baby grand that didn't allow for a full-hearing of those dramatic chords. But as I have noted earlier, everybody can play well on a good piano but the greater challenge is how to play well on a not-so-good piano.

In this regard, Watanabe's rendition of Chopin's Nocturne in B Minor, Op. 9 No. 2 and Polonaise in A Flat Minor Op. 53, No. 6 were excellent as they were filled with just the right nuances. Being an opera fanatic, my favorite was naturally Liszt's Concert Paraphrase of Rigoletto. While the piece didn't dwell on all the opera's favorite operatic highlights, Watanabe's playing was a good indication that opera can sound just as captivating on the piano, with the right interpreter. PPP violinist Jeffrey Solares joined Watanabe in Franck's Sonata in A Major just right after intermission.

This is the first time I heard Solares outside the orchestral ensemble. It was also my first time to hear a Cesar Franck in Cebu. There is a lot to appreciate in his playing and the way he interacted with the pianist. But the piece needs a lot of subtlety and clean intonation to drive its overpowering message to the audience.

Solares was fairly commendable in the allegro part but needed more soulful playing in the allegretto teen moderato movement and a lot more impetus in the finale. Good interpretations can only come with maturity and I am sure Solares' ripening will give him that edge in the future.

As for Watanabe, he was a good recitalist and an even more thoughtful chamber musician in the Cesar Franck number.

I attended Watanabe's master class the following day. He was coaching a student how to interpret Granado's Allegro de Concierto. "In this piece," Watanabe told Abner Bono, "You must get the attention of the audience. Don't forget the melody line."

The versatility of a musician is evident in recitals and master classes. Let's face it, good pianists are not necessarily good teachers.

In this aspect, the Cebu visit of Watanabe was twice as memorable.

Here and there

Did you know that Chinese violinist Jue Yao, soloist of the Peace Philharmonic in the Mendelssohn concerto this year, has the 1750 Guadagnini violin of Isaac Stern who passed away the other week? Jue Yao gave a special concert last Saturday at the Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall and dedicated Dvorak's Four Romantic Pieces to the famous violinist. Yao was one of the five young violinists chosen by Stern for a special scholarship program when he



CHINESE violinist Jue Yao: Due in Cebu and Manila Oct. 20 and 23 with the Suk Chamber Orchestra after her Hong Kong concert tribute to the late violinist Isaac Stern.

made his famous film "From Mao to Mozart" in 1979. The good news is that Yao is back as guest soloist of the Suk Chamber Orchestra that will perform in the Sinulog Ballroom of the Cebu City Sports Club at Ayala Center in Cebu City on Oct. 20 and the CCP Little Theater on Oct. 23. Like the Orpheus Orchestra, the Suk Chamber Orchestra (named after a famous Czech composer named Josef Suk who is one of the noted disciples of Dvorak) performs without a conductor. Their program in Cebu and Manila includes Richter's Adagio and fugue in G Minor for Sings and Continuo, Suk's Meditation on the Old Bohemian Choral "St. Wenceslao" Op. 35, Dvorak's Serenade for Strings in E Major, Op. 22 and Vivaldi's The Four Seasons for Violin, Strings and Continuo, Op. 8, Nos. 1-4.

Another musical event not to be missed in Cebu is the third season concert of the Peace Philharmonic under the baton of Chino Toledo and with soloist Jerry Varona on Oct. 25 at the Cebu Plaza Hotel Grand Lobby. The Cebu-based orchestra will proceed to Bacolod City for outreach performances at the University of St. La Salle Gym on Oct. 27 and at the Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel on Oct. 28. Call (032) 2311341.

Meanwhile, the Second Cagayan Valley International Music Festival will open in Isabela and Cagayan on Nov. 10 and 11 with tenor Lemuel de la Cruz and pianist Najib Ismail. The Filipino tenor, who has appeared in several operas in Hong Kong and Singapore, was last heard as Ruiz in the Singapore-CCP production of Il Trovatore at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. On Nov. 17 and 18, the festival will offer an evening of cello concertos with cellist Wilfredo Pasamba and pianist Nita Abrogar Ouinto. World-acclaimed Romanian violinist Alexander Tomescu highlights the December event of the festival and Berlin-based Filipino baritone Jonathan Zaens closes the festival on Jan. 3-4, 2002.

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PPO starts Europe tour

THE PHILIPPINE Philharmonic Orchestra is embarking on a European tour this month with the help of Alitalia, the Italian airlines.

Baltazar Endriga, chair of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, said the PPO will be the country's "ambassadors of goodwill." He said the orchestra could "charm foreigners into seeing the brighter side of the Philippines."

"The PPO will show the world that Filipinos are artistic and have an inborn talent for music," Endriga added. "These are among the reasons we chose Europe—the cradle of art and culture."

The PPO, the in-house orchestra of the CCP, is led by Maestro Ruggero Barbieri, a native of Bergamo, Italy.

The tour will run from Oct. 19 to Nov. 4 and will reach Gijon, Pontevedra, Orense, Burgos and Madrid in Spain; Klagenfurt in Austria; Rome in Italy; Prague in the Czech Republic; and Berlin in Germany.



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'Vagina Monologues' in Filipino hits close to home

BY CORA LLAMAS

FIRST of all, New Voice Company's vision was certainly laudable: to translate last year's giant hit into the national language which would make the play's complex issues on sexuality and women's struggles accessible to an audience beyond the English-speaking, proscenium-theater-going crowd.

As its director Rito Asilo put it, "We wanted... to reach out to the grass roots, not just to the urban theatergoers who would understand the obvious American sensibilities of some of the monologues." Through the translation, "the monologues and the message will be understood more."

Asilo said he coached the new cast, Arlene Borja, Pinky Marquez and Harlene Bautista-Sarmiento, to "tap into their pool of experiences so that the stories become more real, more Filipino, and not make 'TVM' just a performance piece about women whom Filipinas can never relate to."

Second, NVC certainly spared no effort to make sure that production standards remained consistently high. The playwrights who did the translations—Glecy Atienza, Joi Barrios and Luna Sicat—are prominent literary authors who boast of numerous prestigious awards, and graduate degrees in Filipino, Literature, or both, and an eminent body of work. All three had also written, performed and directed for the stage.

Third, the new triad of actresses wasn't cut out to be stereotype images of their predecessors. The original trio—Monique Wilson, Dulce Aristorenas and Tami Monsod—all gave superb performances; it was hard to imagine the roles played by other actresses. The downside to that is that they cast a long shadow over their successors who would fill in some pretty big thespic boots.

Fortunately, one look at Borja, Marquez and Sarmiento immediately dispelled the idea that they were there to imitate anybody. Wilson and company looked, spoke and acted like they could be at home in cosmopolitan Manhattan or even devastated Bosnia; this enabled them to effectively convey the spirit and flavor of the American or European-based scenes in the original. On the other hand, Borja and company looked, acted and spoke like they could easily rub shoulders with the barangay captain's wife, the local laundrywoman or even dear old Mom.

But these actresses should rise and stand on their own interpretation of the translation.

Local color

There was a lot of local color in the translation—and then some. Instead of the different international terms for vaginas, we heard of regional ones—in Bicolano, Pampangueno or Cebuano. Or how "puke" differs from "kiki."

In "Kung Magsasalita Ang Iyong Puerta..." we heard of how the vagina reacts to different approaches and positions in coitus. Or the different sounds that Filipinas (specifically) make in lovemaking; one woman literally shouts out the names of saints as she climaxes. (And before one screams blasphemy, please be reminded that the material was heavily researched from all walks of life in the Philippines.)

The playwright-translators even managed to take a potshot at commercialism with their "Ang Aking Puking Galit," which is ranting and raving against her next medical inspection. Just listen to it (Arlene Borja): "Iyan ang ginagawa nila,

REVIEW

nililinis ito, pinagap-amoy bathroom spray. Lahat ng mga douche sprays na iyan—floral, berry, rain..." Then when the doctors tell to the owner to relax her vagina, it snarls back: "I-relax mo lang ang puwerta mo." Bakit? Para mapasakan mo iyong malamig at masakit na instrumento?! Huwag na lang!"

And the translators were right—nothing beats hearing something so vital and yet so intimate in your own language and set within your own environment. That in fact was one of the beauties of the original Ensler material: it touched too close to home in words that one (at least in America) hears all the time; that's why the monologues were funny, outrageous, biting, sarcastic and heartwarming, all at the same time.

That's why there was a lot of audience reaction to the more contemporary, Manila-set Taglish monologues, than to the purely Tagalog, lyrical pieces. Let me define the "audience" at this point as the ones in Music Museum; the reactions of the viewers in the provinces or urban poor areas might be different.

The serious monologues written in beautiful, but rarely heard or spoken Tagalog took time to sink in. This happened, too, with the intermediary passages that elaborated on the different meanings of vagina, like "Katotohanang Puki—Tinggil." And in a sense, the play lost some of the immediate reactions and spontaneity that the original production provoked. By the time the import of that serious passage hit home, we were on to the next monologue.

Perhaps that's why "TVMiF" feels more like a valley while the original stunned us like a roller-coaster ride. The more familiar, easy identifiable lingo and settings in the translation set the audiences flying, who then had to land down for a little introspection for the more poetic passages. The audience's emotional and mental connection with the play was never continuously in flight; it leaped and settled down in spasms.

More serious

"TVMiF" was also much more serious than the original. While the original's ingenious mixture of pathos and humor made us alternately laugh, rage and cry in one monologue, even the more caustic scenes that touched on oppression (and concocting that mix was Ensler's brilliance), the serious passages in the translation were downright somber and heavy. Perhaps it couldn't be helped. Maybe hearing taboo issues like rape, marital abuse and genital mutilation spoken openly in Tagalog were so emphatically disturbing that you couldn't even soften the pain with the irony of humor.

Sometimes the heaviness of spirit provoked by these passages could be so weighty that even the next intentionally funny monologues took time to lighten the air.

The actresses tackled their monologues valiantly and often succeeded. Marquez brought out the vulnerable, if modern female in "Baha" and "Dahil Gusto Niya Akong Tingnan." Sarmiento's innocence and wide-eyed look worked for the gentler, uncorrupted sides of her characters in the Bosnia rape and abused little girl scenes; she could have added more fire and indignation to the first, though, and a growing sophistication with a touch of defiance to the second.

The earthy Borja brought the house down with her "Angry Vagina" and in "Ang Babaeng Mahilig Magpaligaya sa Mga Puki." Personally, though, I missed the eroticism of the original performer Dulce Aristorenas in the latter scene. Aristorenas made the different orgasms sound sexy, not just funny; Borja was just down-to-earth and funny.

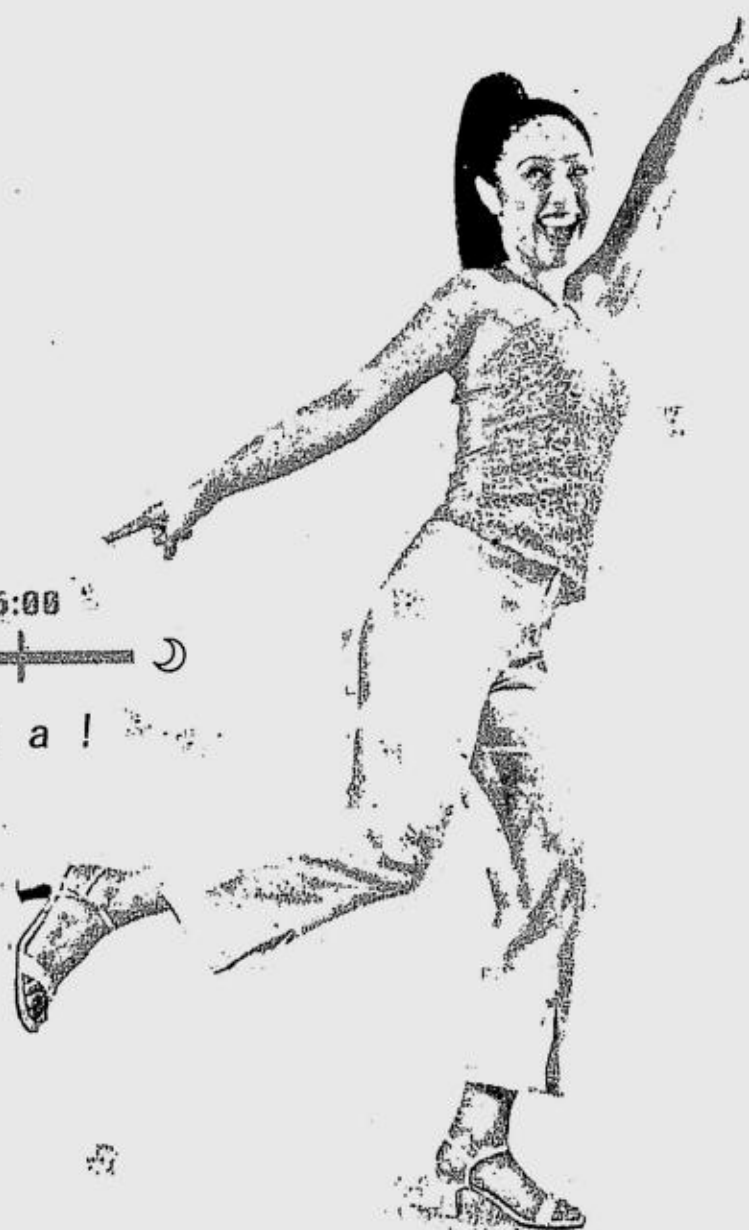
Still, all of these are just birth pains as NVC tries to find the perfect voice for its "Vagina Monologues," one that will speak powerfully and spontaneously to all Filipinos, male and women, of all classes. To date, there have been 50 performances on tour; this translation, coupled perhaps with several revisions, would undoubtedly create more.

Personally, I'd love to see the reactions of the "nonurban people" to this translation.

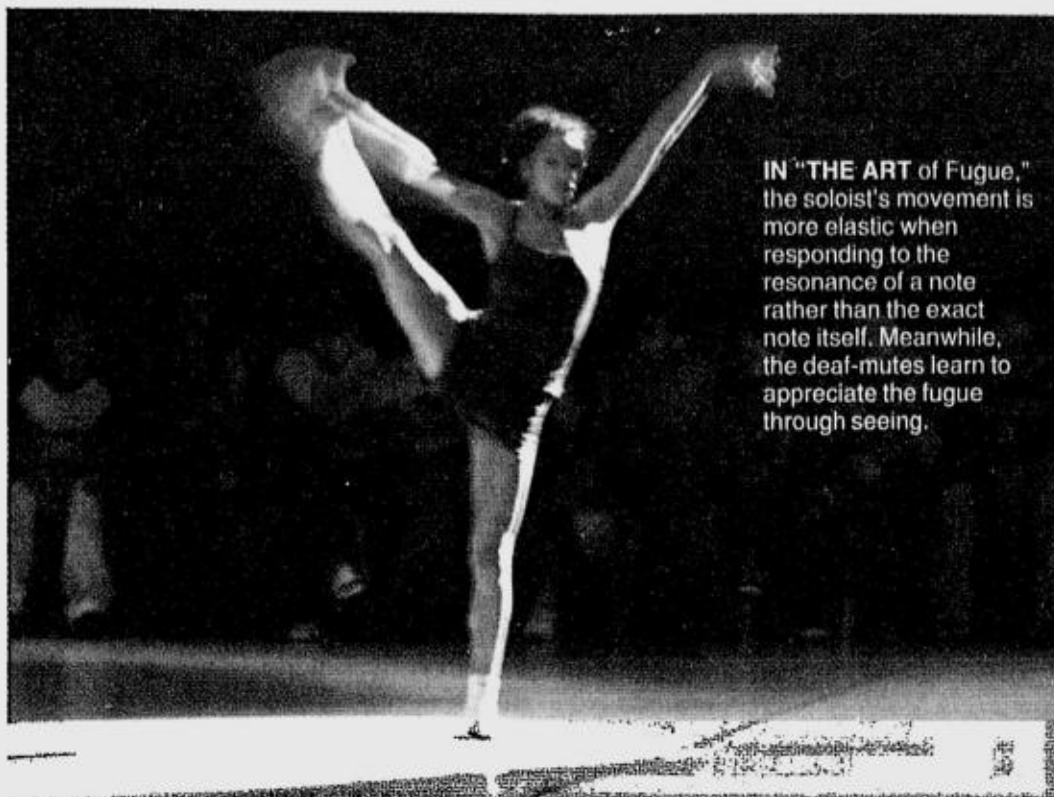
New Voice Company's "The Vagina Monologues in Filipino," as well as the original English version with a new cast made up of Tami Monsod, Lynn Sherman, and Lara Fabregas, will be touring. For details, call 899-0630, 896-5497/6695



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IN "THE ART of Fugue," the soloist's movement is more elastic when responding to the resonance of a note rather than the exact note itself. Meanwhile, the deaf-mutes learn to appreciate the fugue through seeing.

Despite arcane content, German ballets well applauded

By MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ

First of two parts

WHEN the Goethe Institut brings in a foreign dance company, most of the time their repertoire or content seems arcane to us. Filipinos, used to climactic, narrative and high-octane dancing, find conceptual works beyond their comprehension and appreciation.

Such was the case of "The Art of Fugue," a collaboration between a modern ballet company called Ballett Freiburg Pretty Ugly and the Freiburg Baroque Ensemble.

The Western press raved over this work by Amanda Miller, who was born and trained in the States. It takes knowledge in music and exposure to European modern choreography to enjoy Bach's fugue. It is extremely structured, but not rhythmic from the dance viewpoint.

"The Art of Fugue" was staged at the AFP Theater, a venue smaller and narrower than what the company

REVIEW



FREIBURG Baroque Orchestra interprets an era when music was quieter and the tones were smaller.
PHOTOS BY MIKE ALQUINTO

was used. A linoleum flooring defined the dance area. The string ensemble was positioned downstage while special guests, hearing-challenged youths, sat close to the back wall. There were benches on the side where dancers sat as they waited for their turn to perform.

"The stage is like a game—a tennis match or basketball court where everybody participates," explained Miller. Instead of being enslaved to counting the steps, the dancers learned to be attentive to the live music. And, the musicians took their visual cues from the dancers. The deaf-mute students learned to "see" and "feel" Bach's music through dance. "They would experience a greater volume of energy coming toward them. They could hear more internally," said Miller.

Various pacing

The choreographer worked closely with musicians so that her dancers could have a better understanding of music. Conductor Gottfried von der Goltz explained that "The Art of Fugue" was originally not meant to be performed.

"Instead it documents a time and a specific period of creativity in the life of Johann Sebastian Bach which emphasized the main points of polyphonic composition. In this respect, 'The Art of Fugue' is the Mount Olympus—a collection of different fugues which would provide posterity with evidence of Bach's compositional mastery," he said.

"A fugue is a piece of music which is constructed using a specific musical rule from the Baroque period. It is based on a theme and is repeated and sequenced by several voices."

"The Art of Fugue" is divided into two parts that conveyed various pacing such as slow, fast, lyrical, melancholy and upbeat.

"With the different types of rhythm and counterpoint, it's all there in the music. So for instance, there's a peaceful, *cantabile* counterpoint but then there's also a very wild counterpoint—with lots of repetition and syncopation. The expression in between indicates a quiet and lively piece," said the conductor.

"The Art of Fugue" was divided into 18 variations, performed by nine dancers in solos, duets, trios, quartets and ensembles.

Since Miller was trained at the prestigious North Carolina School of the Arts and had studied under Balanchine's muses such as Melissa Hayden and Maria Tallchief, the style showed neoclassical underpinnings, what with the soaring extensions, pelvic thrusts and off-center balances. There were lots of glides, fan kicks on a curved leg, limbs circling space in a 180-degree arc and high arabesques. Yet Miller injected her style with releases from the arms that swerved and curved. The movements would shift from the lifted, formal and carefully placed positions of classical ballet to the momentum and weightiness, the rises and falls of modern dance. The transitions of the classical *port de bras* (position of the arms) were fragmented and rearranged into an organic movement and conveyed into another classical *port de bras*.

"It's trying to go through space, taking it and letting it go further," she said.

"I'm trying to get people not get stuck in a gesture and position, but they understand about movement. Music moves, people move. There's a lot of releasing and follow-through movement that uses ballet articulation so that it doesn't become such a mess. This ballet is one of the stricter ones. I ask my dancers to use their instinct so that they don't feel they have to perform for a public as that makes it flat. The more open they are with themselves, the more open they are with the audience and the more audience feels. It's about communication. There are moments when they are allowed to follow the structure and there are times when they choreograph to help break up the strictness of the music."

DNA code

Asked why "The Art of Fugue" didn't build up to a climax, the way Filipinos expect dances to be, Miller said she had chosen to respect the fugue structure. She explained the fugue was very mathematical. Her challenge was to find the dance possibilities in the contrapuntal tensions between the 45 voices of the fugue. Although the fugue had different configurations, her objective was not to literally illustrate. However many patterns were reiterated to illustrate the repetitive quality of the Bach. To visualize the musical counterpoints and successiveness of voices, some sections showed individual dancing in spite of the ensemble.

"We're all sharing the space between the music and the movement," Miller said.

"The first half of the choreography is structured. I had to cut through it and find space. The second part is fun and emotional, full of canons. It allowed me to be more tactile and sensual with the duets. We were allowed to have more games and a sense of humor."

Toward the end, a male soloist covered his eyes and tried to move despite his disability. That section was an allusion to Bach when he went blind toward the end of his life. Miller left it to the audience to interpret the significance. "He couldn't finish the last fugue. Or, it could mean that there was no end for him. Also it lets you be aware of how you listen or how you see."

Another portion showed a slide of the DNA code onstage. "The last fugue is structured in B-A-C-H. He arranged it all the time. It's in a code. We talked about a physical language code. We thought the most basic code of humanity was DNA code," she said.

Unlike the company's name, Pretty Ugly, the dancers showed excellent classical technique—not to mention stomach muscles and backs—for those off-center movements and musicality to interpret Bach's fugue. From locals' viewpoint, it does need sophistication and exposure to understand Bach's work. Isn't it about Manila time got more exposed to higher concepts?

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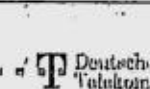
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LIFESTYLE Books

What makes a good children's story?

BY NENI STA. ROMANA-CRUZ

IT is a happy sign of the times that writers of children's stories now have more opportunities to be published and recognized. At about this time each year, when the deadline for the PBBY-Salanga Writer's Prize for children's stories nears, there always surfaces the question: what makes a good children's story? The very same qualities that we look for in adult books—originality, freshness and timelessness. And because these are for children with very limited experiences, the stories must relate to common experiences, explore family relationships and extend the reader's knowledge.

Offering convincing examples are some favorite titles (all published by Adarna House) from the distinguished list of 14 PBBY-Salanga award-winners over the years. The winners include Ma. Elena Patermo, Ed Maranan, Carla Pacis whose English story was translated by poet Danny Reyes, and Rebecca Anonuevo, all established writers today.



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"Bru-ha-ha-ha-ha... Bru-hi-hi-hi-hi..." the 1995 winner by full-time copywriter and part-time author Ma. Corazon Remigio and illustrated by Roland Michael Ilagan, is the story of Mrs. Magalit who is branded a witch by her neighbors because of her appearance. The child narrator of

WHAT/p.64

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"DARE to Fail" author Billi Lim presents former President Corazon C. Aquino a copy of his book, which features the late Sen. Benigno Aquino. The presentation was made at the Benigno Aquino Jr. Foundation Museum. At right is Sam Low of Edmark Industries of Malaysia.

Anvil to launch T.M. Kalaw's book of essays

ANVIL Publishing Inc., together with the National Library, will launch the book "Spiritual Register: News Columns La Vanguardia 1926-1927" by statesman and writer Teodoro M. Kalaw tomorrow, 3 p.m., at the 3/F lobby of the National Library Building on T.M. Kalaw Street, Ermita, Manila.

Translated in English from the original Spanish texts by National Artist for Literature Nick Joaquin, "Spiritual Register (Dietario Espiritual)" is a collection of 85 opinion pieces by Kalaw that first appeared in the newspaper La Vanguardia under the column Mi Patina Diaria (My Daily Page).

T.M. Kalaw, patriot, freethinker and journalist extraordinary, is a great observer of the manners and ideas of his times. His essays in the book are honest, brave, witty, idealistic and radical commentaries that challenged the purveying norms and beliefs that followed the handover from Spanish to American rule.

A conservationist and advocate of Filipino nationalism, he extolled the virtues of self-governance in brilliant essays like, "The Philippines for Filipinos," "Motherland and other personal interests" and "What you should do." He decried racism and social prejudice in moving pieces like "Hereditary prejudices," "Human

hates" and "Intolerance."

T.M. Kalaw was an assemblyman and the first Filipino director of the National Library. He was editor of the El Renacimiento, which published the classic anti-imperialist editorial "Aves de Rapina (Birds of Prey)" that led to a 14-year court case and ended in a conviction for TMK on Jan. 10, 1910.

Nick Joaquin, National Artist for Literature, is the chief editor of the Philippine Graphic and publisher of the Weekly Mirror. As a translator, he has translated from the original Spanish the poems and plays of Jose Rizal, and the articles and political tracts of Claro M. Recto. He uses the pen name Quijano de Manila.



A woman's healing touch

Nurturing. Instinctive. Intuitive. Doctors who celebrate womanhood by touching lives and moving hearts. These are the doctors of the **Philippine Medical Women's Association**.

It was in 1948 when a group of women doctors banded together and formed the **Philippine Medical Women's Association**. Now recognized as a socio-civic organization, with a membership of 4,000, it aims to address the health and welfare not only of its members but of Filipinas in all walks of life and the community as well.

With responsibilities beyond the confines of their hospitals, **PMWA** makes sure its members are well-equipped to carry out these duties by opening venues such as seminars directed towards professional advancement, membership opportunities with its affiliate, **Medical Women's International Association** and by offering benefit programs to complement their multi-faceted roles.

Committed and intelligent women, the members of **PMWA** continue to explore their creativity and redefine what it means to be a woman of medicine in the real world!

The **Philippine Medical Women's Association** truly possesses the healing touch for ailing people but their dedication is also meant to make a difference in our society.

Committed, selfless women doctors can now register thru our website: www.pmwa.org.ph.
Our Secretariat can also receive your calls at telephone nos. 921-3947 and 925-0191.



Philippine Medical Women's Association, Inc.

PMWA goes online and beyond

In 1948, a group of women doctors banded together and formed the **Philippine Medical Women's Association (PMWA)** amidst overwhelming skepticism. Dr. Fe del Mundo, renowned pediatrician was then elected Charter President. Today in 2001, PMWA is considered as a socio-civic organization and has 4,000 members. The PMWA was subsequently admitted to the **Medical Women's International Association (MWIA)**, a prestigious international women doctors' organization. Dr. Fe Canlas-Dizon is currently the immediate past Vice President for its **Western Pacific Region (WESPAC)**. During PMWA's 46th Annual Convention, former President **Fidel V. Ramos** was gracious enough to say these kind words: "As a service-oriented organization, the PMWA is by itself a shining example of the Filipino women's ever growing participation in the pressing tasks of securing our nation's progress and our people's welfare. Its many laudable projects reflect not just support for its fellow doctors but also an enlarged sense of the family that has moved from the narrow confines of their home to the larger and higher arena of welfare."

"Organized helping hand"

When a woman doctor becomes a member of PMWA, she will be given trainings, seminars, and scholarships for professional advancement. They can also avail of financial aid and benefits up to P10,000 through the Mutual Death-Disability Benefit Program, and Disaster or Calamity Aid (for member chapters). Members can also be part of the PMWA Multi-Purpose Cooperative which was put up to further aid member chapters in their finances.

"One with the women doctors of the world"

PMWA is an affiliate of the **Medical Women's International Association (MWIA)** and a member of the **Western Pacific Region**. The MWIA is a non-political, non-sectarian and non-profit making association of medical women representing women doctors all over five continents. Since the 50's, MWIA has been actively involved with the United Nations as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). MWIA still maintains its working relations with the World Health Organization (WHO), Category Status II with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Immunization Project for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Lastly, MWIA is the founding and active member of the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS).

"Beyond the call of duty"

As proof of PMWA's sincerity to heal lives, the organization gives free services to the community through medical/dental clinics, cancer screening, pap smear, and harelip/cleft operation. PMWA also has programs for children such as "Lunduyan ng Kabataan", learning center, feeding/nutrition, and for women the Women's Health Institute.

"For women's health and well-being"

One of PMWA's 2001 priority projects is the recruitment and re-activation of its inactive individual and member chapters. An affiliation with Sun Life Financial ensued this August 2001 and the website, www.pmwa.org.ph was launched. This is the official website and its mission to create awareness and improve the health of Filipino women and children was strengthened because through the website, members can communicate and exchange information about PMWA, themselves and the issues that matter in the medical and human societies. Through the website, PMWA will be able to communicate its other priority projects like the Crisis Intervention Center, Harelip/Cleft Operations Project and Child-to-Child Program. Solicitations and funding for these projects will also be possible.

If you are interested in any of the programs, please contact the PMWA Secretariat. *PMWA Building, V. Luna Road corner Malakas St., Quezon City. *Tel. Nos. 921-3947 and 925-0191 *Official Website: www.pmwa.org.ph.

Aside from this "virtual gift", Sun Life Financial also offers interested women doctors a **Personal Accident Insurance of P100,000** when they register directly online now to PMWA's official website. This is only available until November 15, 2001.

Founder of Oblates of St. Joseph to be canonized

THE OBLATES of St. Joseph all over the world and the schools they have founded are excited these days about the forthcoming canonization of their founder, Blessed Bishop Joseph Marelllo, at St. Peter's Square, Rome on Nov. 25.

At least 80 pilgrims from Manila, both clergy and laity, have pledged their participation. Organized by All Points Travel Services headed by Dondie Ocampo, the pilgrimage leaves Manila on Nov. 21.

Blessed Joseph Marelllo was born in Turin, Italy on Dec. 26, 1844 to a family that came originally from San Martino Alfieri.

Called in an extraordinary manner to the priesthood, he brilliantly completed his studies in the Diocesan Seminary of Asti in 1878. Inspired by his devotion to St. Joseph and his fidelity to the Lord, Fr. Marelllo founded the Congregation of the Oblates of St. Joseph which is dedicated to the education of the youth and the missions.

The good priest became Bishop of Acqui in 1889. He exhibited an unusual sanctity of life, which in turn inspired young men to join him as priests and missionaries.

Bishop Marelllo died a holy death on May 30, 1895. On June 29, 1923 his venerable remains were solemnly transferred to the Sanctuary of St. Joseph in Asti. He was beatified on Sept. 26, 1993 by Pope John Paul II in Asti.

The miracle that made him saint

On May 15, 1998 in the small village of Ranquish in Pomabamba, Peru, the children Alfredo and Isila Chavez de Leon (ages 11 and 9, respectively) came home with high fever; they were coughing severely. They were later diagnosed to have bronchopulmonitis, which could cause death. Even if they could bring the children to Pomabamba which was four hours by foot from Ranquish, the children's parents were too poor to afford to buy medicine.

The health officer instead suggested that they pray to Joseph Marelllo. He had a friend assigned to the parish run by the Oblates in Pomabamba.

So the father and mother prayed hard. In the evening of the same day, the mother dreamed of a white man who looked like a saint who told her not to worry because he was going to Huari and would cure her children soon. Huari, which is also called Huaraz, was six hours by car from Pomabamba.

The following day at 7 p.m., the mother and her neighbors went to the chapel to pray to "Marellito," the affectionate name they gave to Marelllo because of his little statue brought from Brazil and enshrined in the chapel.

On May 17, Sunday, the kids were still seriously ill. The mother kept on praying, but by 2 p.m., the illness left them. They suddenly stood up and there was no sign of the illness. They said that they wanted to join the procession welcoming the bust statue of Marelllo, which was scheduled to arrive at 4 p.m. in the chapel. When the mother saw the bust of Marelllo, she cried out, "He is the one I dreamt of."

This latest miracle was presented to the Vatican on April 13, 2000 and the medical mission in charge declared the miracle authentic. Three months later, the Theology Commission declared the same. In November 2000 the College of Cardinals informed the Oblates of St. Joseph in their General House in Rome that they had a saint. In February this year, the Pope scheduled the canonization of Blessed Marelllo on Nov. 25.

Oblates of St. Joseph in the Philippines

The Oblates of St. Joseph arrived in the country in 1915. They work in 17 parishes, run eight Catholic schools and operate two retreat houses. They are in Manila, Antipolo, Batangas, Laguna, Iloilo, Antique, Davao and Cavite.

The Oblates have complete houses of formation from Minor Seminary to the House of Theology in Lipa, Batangas. The director of schools is Fr. Rony Alkonga, OSJ.

The Santuario de San Jose is run by the Oblates of St. Joseph. The Archdiocesan Shrine of St. Joseph in San Jose, Batangas is run by the Oblates and is under the jurisdiction of the Archdiocese of Lipa.

Those who want prayers to St. Joseph Marelllo can write me. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for easier mailing. Those who wish to join the pilgrimage on Nov. 21 can fax 410-1520 or call Dondie Ocampo at 410-1527.

Marellian spirituality

Here are some quotations from St. Joseph Marelllo: "Be extraordinary in ordinary things"; "Do day by day whatever Divine Providence shall dispose"; and "Place yourselves in the hands of God."

Here are his guidelines to reach higher spirituality: 1) piety and poverty; 2) purity of intention and love of the hidden life; 3) spirit of moderation and simplicity; 4) spirit of holy abandonment to God; and 5) spirit of recollection in the divine presence.

Fund-raising for San Jose Cathedral

THE PARISHIONERS of San Jose Cathedral Parish in San Jose, Nueva Ecija will turn out en masse for the play to be held at the KC Clubhouse on Oct. 17 at 7 p.m. to celebrate Bishop Leo Drona's birthday. Proceeds of the play "The Life of Job" will go to the reconstruction of the cathedral.

The San Jose Cathedral is known for the Eucharistic miracle that happened some years back when the Eucharist turned into blood. The church needs to be rebuilt, so Fr. Bong Romano, the parish priest, Remedios F. Ignacio and Eva F. Violago spearheaded the fundraising. Priests will also perform in the play.

St. Mary Margaret Alacoque

OCT. 16 is the feast day of St. Mary Margaret Alacoque to whom Jesus Christ appeared as the

Reading Association holds annual conference

THE READING Association of the Phils., an affiliate of the Int'l. Reading Association, will hold its annual demofest on Oct. 19-21 at the Development Academy of the Philippines, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. The conference theme, "Content-Based Literacy Instruction Across Levels," addresses a common concern of reading teachers: equipping students with skills to comprehend informational materials studied in other subject areas like science, math, values education, art, etc.

Dr. Thomas Kral, cultural affairs officer of the US Embassy, Manila, heads the list of resource speakers. From the University of the Philippines come Dr. Marietta Reyes-Otero and Dr. Felicitas Pado, assistant secretary and trustee of the Reading Association of the Phils., respectively. Speakers from the Philippine Normal University include Dr. Angelita Romero, Dr. Emma Castillo, Prof. Phebe Pena and Prof. Ramero Royo. Also featured are Rosanna Magalang and Santiago Tamildes from the Ateneo Grade School, and Esperanza J. Chee Kee and Ronan Capinding from the Ateneo High School. Members of the RAP Board of Trustees complete the roster of speakers.

The conference fee is P1,300 for RAP members and P1,500 for non-RAP members. Call 823-5077 or 426-6001, local 7154.

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BLESSED Joseph Marelllo

Sacred Heart. She and St. Claude de la Colombierre, SJ were instrumental in introducing to the Christian world the feast of the Sacred Heart.

The message of Garabandal

ALTHOUGH the apparitions in Garabandal, Spain in the '60s were never officially recognized by the Catholic Church, the message that Our Blessed Mother told the visionaries on Oct. 18, 1961 manifests itself today.

Our Lady said: "Many sacrifices must be made. Much penance must be done. We must pay many visits to the Blessed Sacrament... But first of all, we must be very good. If we do not do this, punishment awaits us... Already the cup is filling, and if we do not change, we shall be punished."

The message of Manaoag

VISIONARY-HEALER Nila Almoradie went into trance during the fiesta of Our Lady of Manaoag in Pangasinan last Oct. 7 between 12 noon and 1 p.m. She was near the stairs leading up to the back room, where she could touch the garment of the Virgin. Mass was going on at that time.

The message she received was to: "Pray and pray the Rosary." There must be reconciliation, the Virgin said, between Afghanistan and America. If possible, light a white candle tied with a green and white ribbon in church or in home altars and pray for peace. Green symbolizes hope and white purity of intentions.

The Virgin also said to the visionary: "Let Muslims and Christians love each other and the world should not be destroyed."

The Virgin warned that we should pray, so the

war will not spread.

Message from Medjugorje

Since the Virgin Mary first appeared in Medjugorje to the young visionaries in 1981, the message has been the same all these years: pray, do penance and fast on Wednesdays and Fridays. Twenty years later, pilgrims still go to Medjugorje for different reasons: to find themselves, to reaffirm their faith and to hear the messages through the visionaries.

Pope John Paul's appeal

THE POPE is asking everyone to pray the 15 Mysteries of the Rosary every day for world peace. Since the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and in Washington last Sept. 11, Rosaries are being said for the repose of the souls of those who died and for world peace.

Queen of Schoenstatt

OCT. 18 is the feast of Our Mother Queen of Schoenstatt. Masses will be said in home altars all over the world.

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'Great Books' lecture series at Ateneo

THE DEPARTMENT of English of the Ateneo de Manila University announces the second of its Great Books Lecture Series on Oct. 20, 27, Nov. 17 and 24, 3-5 p.m., at the SEC Escaler Hall 3 and SS Conference Rooms 1 and 2.

The series will host a number of the university's much-loved professors and wordsmiths: Benilda S. Santos on Italo Calvino's "Invisible Cities" and Antoine de Saint-Exupery's "The Little Prince" ("What if the

Little Prince were to visit the Invisible Cities: A Study on the Child, the Traveler and the Tyrant"); Doreen Gamboa Fernandez on Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot" ("The Waiting Game"); Fr. Jose Mario C. Francisco S.J. ("Two on Friendship and Mortality: the Epic of Gilgamesh and the Confessions of Augustine"); Guillermo M. Pesigan ("The Intertextuality of Literature and Film: A Streetcar Named Desire" and "All About my Mother"); and Eduadro Jose Calasanz on Graham

Greene's "The End of the Affair" ("The Surprise of Sanctity").

Regular fee is P3,000 (inclusive of photocopied handouts) but special rates will apply in the cases of early bird registrants and teachers outside the Ateneo Loyola Schools (P2,500) and employees of the Ateneo Loyola Schools (P2,000).

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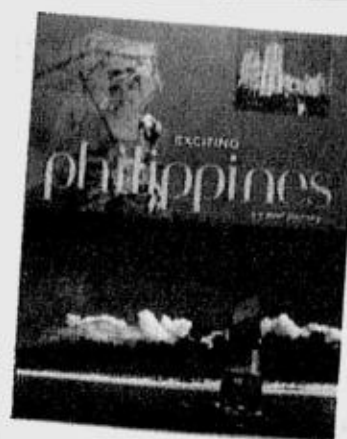


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VISUAL JOURNEY OF THE PHILIPPINES

With over 1,100 islands to visit in the Philippines, it's not likely many people have seen every nook and cranny of the archipelago. "Exciting Philippines: A Visual Journey" presents the country's major attraction in memorable images. Captured in a vibrant pictorial souvenir—from the colorful chaos of Metro Manila by the Bay to the resort islands of Cebu, Boracay and Palawan, this book is a scenic spectacle to behold. True nature lovers can also feast their eyes on

some of the country's rare floral gems in Jim Coates' "Orchids of the Philippines." An up-to-date and comprehensive encyclopedia of the various indigenous orchids of the Philippine archipelago, the book includes many rare and new species depicted for the first time. More than 300 different species are described and illustrated in full color images. Both books are available at all National Bookstore branches.

Deadline for UST investigative journalism award extended

THE VARSITARIAN, the 73-year-old official student publication of the University of Santo Tomas, is inviting college publications, journalism students, and others interested to join the 2001 National Campus Investigative Journalism Award, an award established by Julio S. Macaranas Jr., an alumnus of the UST Faculty of Civil Law and a former editor in chief of both the Varsitarian and a major national publication on labor law based in Washington, D.C.

The criteria include: (1) social significance; (2) promotion of truth; (3) promotion of Filipino values; (4) well-reasoned arguments and constructive exposes; (5) validity of facts and well-researched propositions; (6) effective, responsible and ethical methodologies; and (7) advancement of student rights and press freedom.

To join, (1) the article may be written in Filipino or in English; (2) the report should have citations, attributions, and bibliographic information written on a separate paper when submitted; (3) five copies of the publication, where the article was published, should be submitted in a long brown envelope. Each envelope should contain one accomplished entry form, history of the publication, profiles or curriculum vitae of the author/s, bibliography/ies, short background of the nature of the case or expose, duplicate copies of supporting documents and interview transcriptions. Entries and all submitted documents will not be returned.

The author/s of the winning investigative report will receive P30,000 in

cash, a specially designed medal, certificates and books from the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism. In addition, the student publication or school organ, where the investigative report was published, will receive a plaque and P20,000.

There will be four honorable mention winners representing Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao and the National Capital Region. The authors (representing a team or a single publication) of the winning investigative reports will receive certificates and P5,000, while the school organ or publication will receive a plaque.

For eligibility, (1) all student publications or school organs in the college/university level nationwide may join; (2) the entry may be written by one writer or more or by a team (whole publication); (3) the investigative report's date of publication should be from school years 2000 to 2001 (including semestral break issues and summer issues); and (4) the article should be endorsed as genuine by the publication's adviser/s or by a journalism or communication arts professor.

Deadline for submission has been extended to Oct. 18 up to 10 p.m. at the Varsitarian office, 112 UST Main Building, España, Manila.

For information, visit the Varsitarian office at 112 UST Main Building, or call Reyann V. Kong, Stephen Roy O. Chua-Rojas, or Ma. Lynda C. Corpuz at 731-3101 local 8235; or R. Kong at (0919) 282-5095 or S. Chua-Rojas at (0917) 520-5018.

Visit the Varsitarian website www.varsitarian.com.

What makes...

(From page G1)

fers the amusing telltale signs that confirm Mrs. Magalit's witchhood—her refusal to enter the house because of a broom standing by the doorway and her eating with her left hand. Soon the child discovers the logic behind Mrs. Magalit's behavior.

She does not want to enter the house because her slippers are dirty. She has an arthritic right hand, thus she uses her left to eat. The last line is a touching one, "From that time on, I didn't call Mrs. Magalit a witch. I ended up calling her... Grandma."

"Ang Itim na Kuting" (1996 winner) by Natasha Vizcarra with artwork by Ferdinand Guevara is about a black kitten named Ignacia who is unloved and rejected because she is thought to bring bad luck. Ignacia proves her worth by offering a little girl her many charming uses—as a paper weight, as a foot warmer, as a weather forecaster, why, even as a scarf. But the little girl does not really care for all that, for all she wants is for Ignacia to be her friend. The story espouses tolerance and acceptance of diversity.

Special child

"Federico" (1997 winner) by Eugene Y. Evasco and illustrated by Paul Eric L. Roca is the story of a special child with Down Syndrome. It chronicles the blossoming friendship between a normal boy and Federico. Despite their apparent differences, Federico is shown to have the same needs, interests and sentiments as other normal children. The times they share show what makes friendships endure—catching dragonflies together,

exchanging riddles and playing together. The most touching part of the story is when the narrator sees Federico and his classmates and is puzzled—why do they all look alike, plump with shifty eyes and fair complexion? Could they all be brothers, the narrator wonders.

The latest addition to the roster of award winners is "Bakit Matagal ang Sundo Ko?" (2001 winner) by Kristine Canon and illustrated by Mariano Ching. It deals with a topic every child may have known by now—anxiously waiting alone on a lonely school bench to be picked up, long after everyone has gone. Her imagination turns wild as she creatively conjures scenarios explaining her mother's delay. Is mom on an elephant, a turtle or eagle, rather than in the family car? Or, has she forgotten about her?

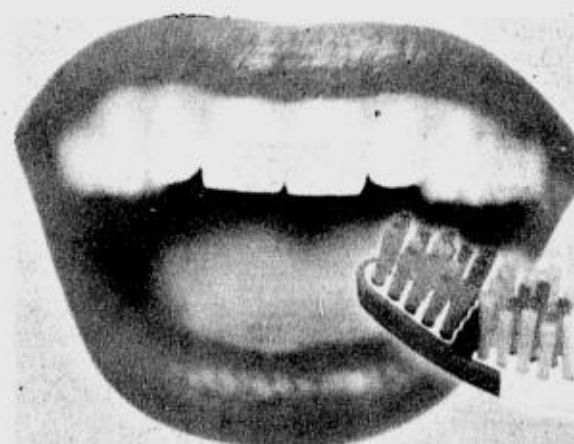
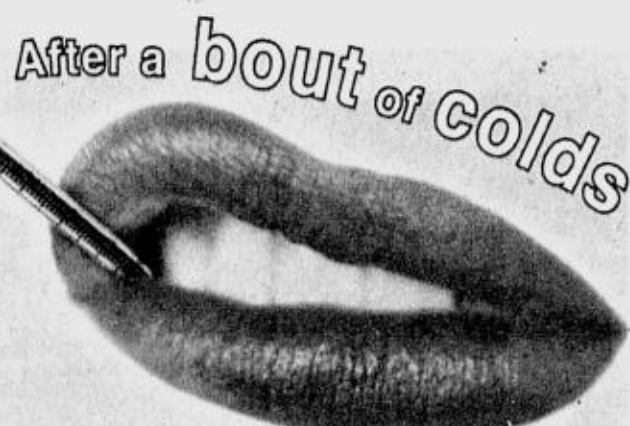
Today, Oct. 15 is the deadline for submission of story entries to the 2002 PBBY-Salanga Writer's Prize. The contest is sponsored by the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the National Library. The winner will receive a cash prize of P25,000, a gold medal and the opportunity to be published.

Stories may be in Filipino or English, written for children aged 6-12 years old, and must not be longer than five pages long, double-spaced, on short bond paper. After the winning story is chosen, copies of it are made available to illustrators for the PBBY Illustrator's Prize.

To all writers of children's stories, take up thy pen and write!

The author is a member of the Philippine Board on Books for Young People, tels. 372-3548 or 49

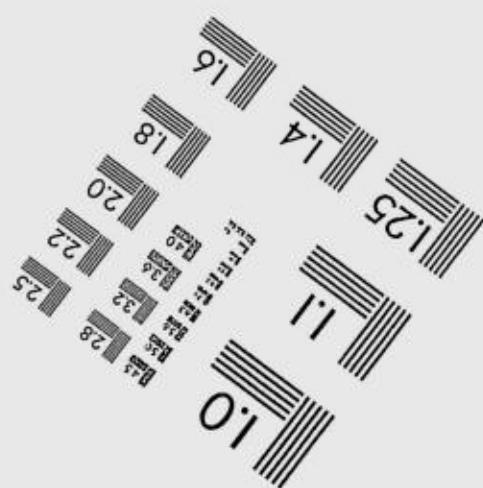
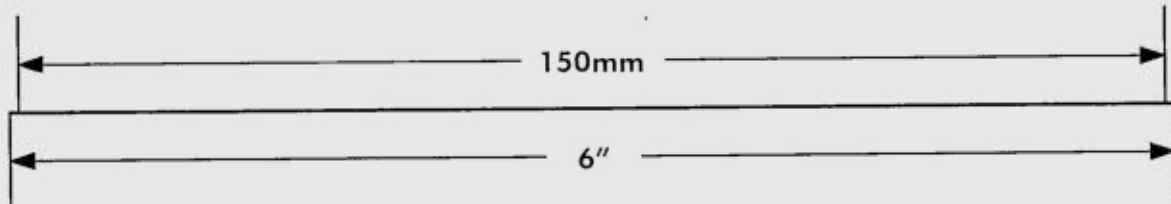
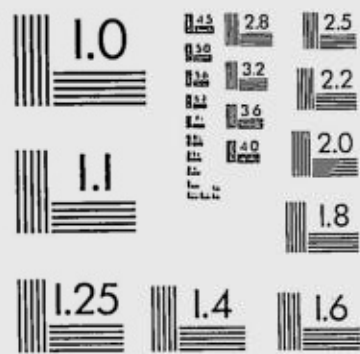
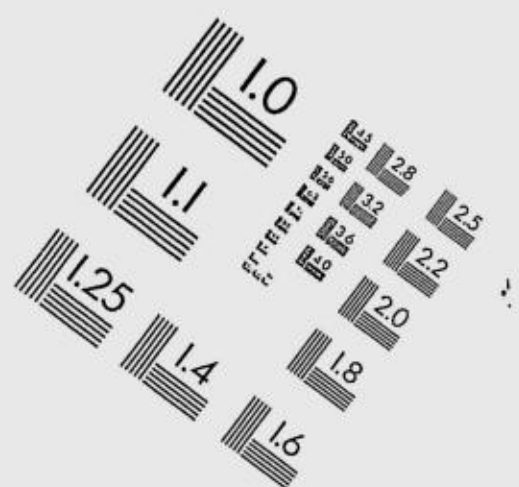
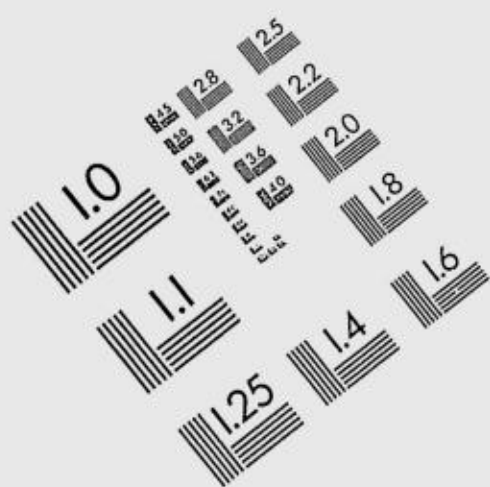
A health tip...



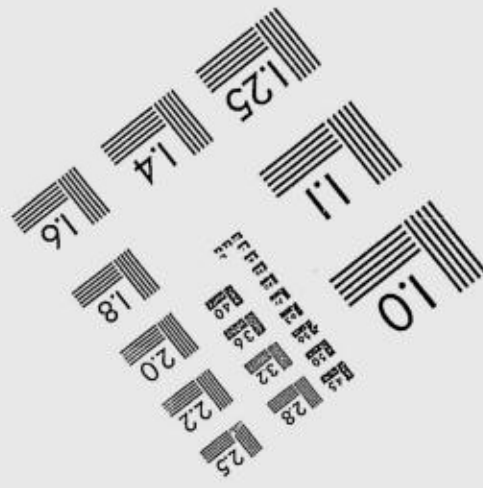
Colgate NAVIGATOR

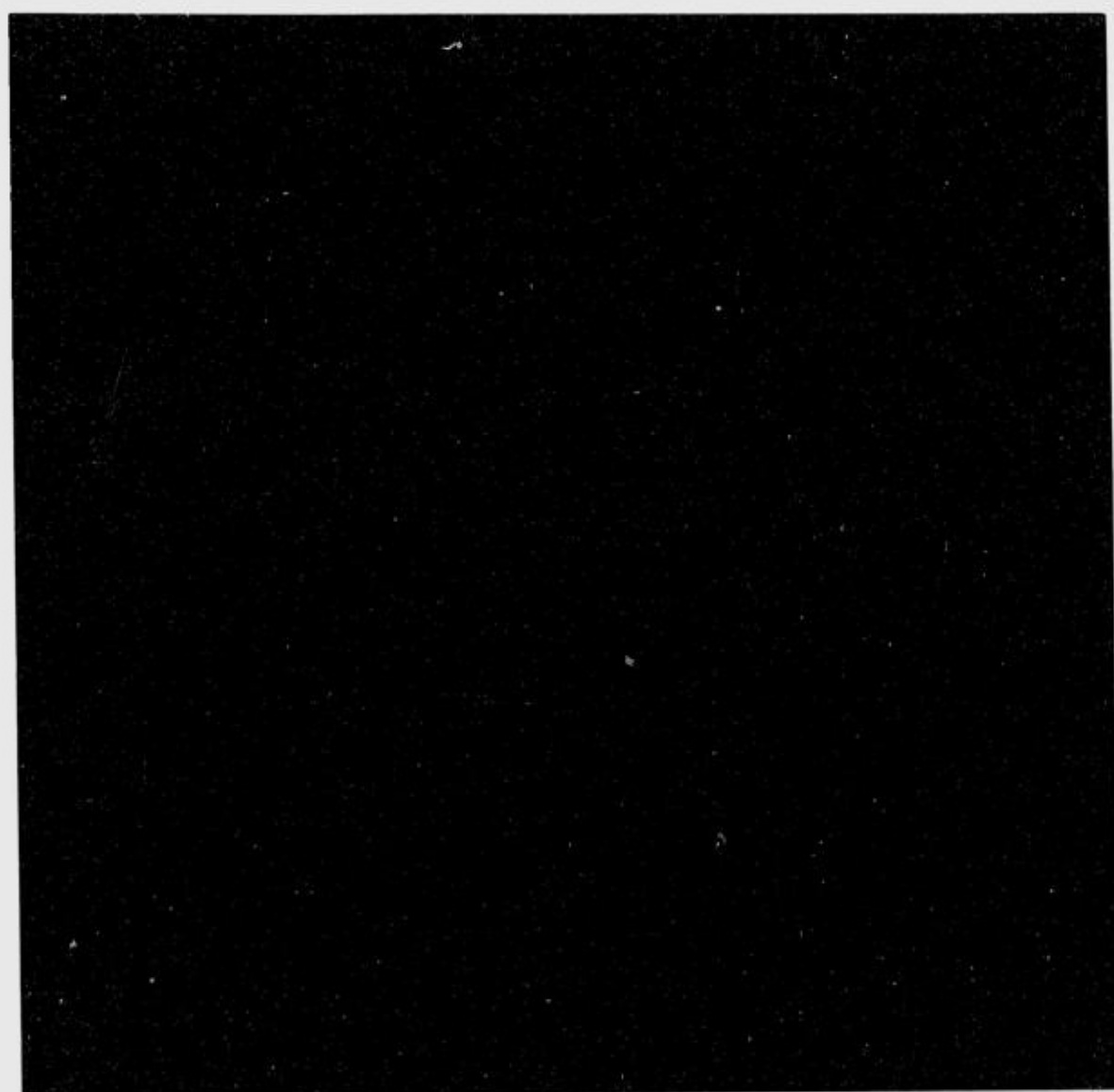
According to dentists, the colds and flu virus can stay in your toothbrush. So change your toothbrush right away! A health message from Colgate Navigator Toothbrush.

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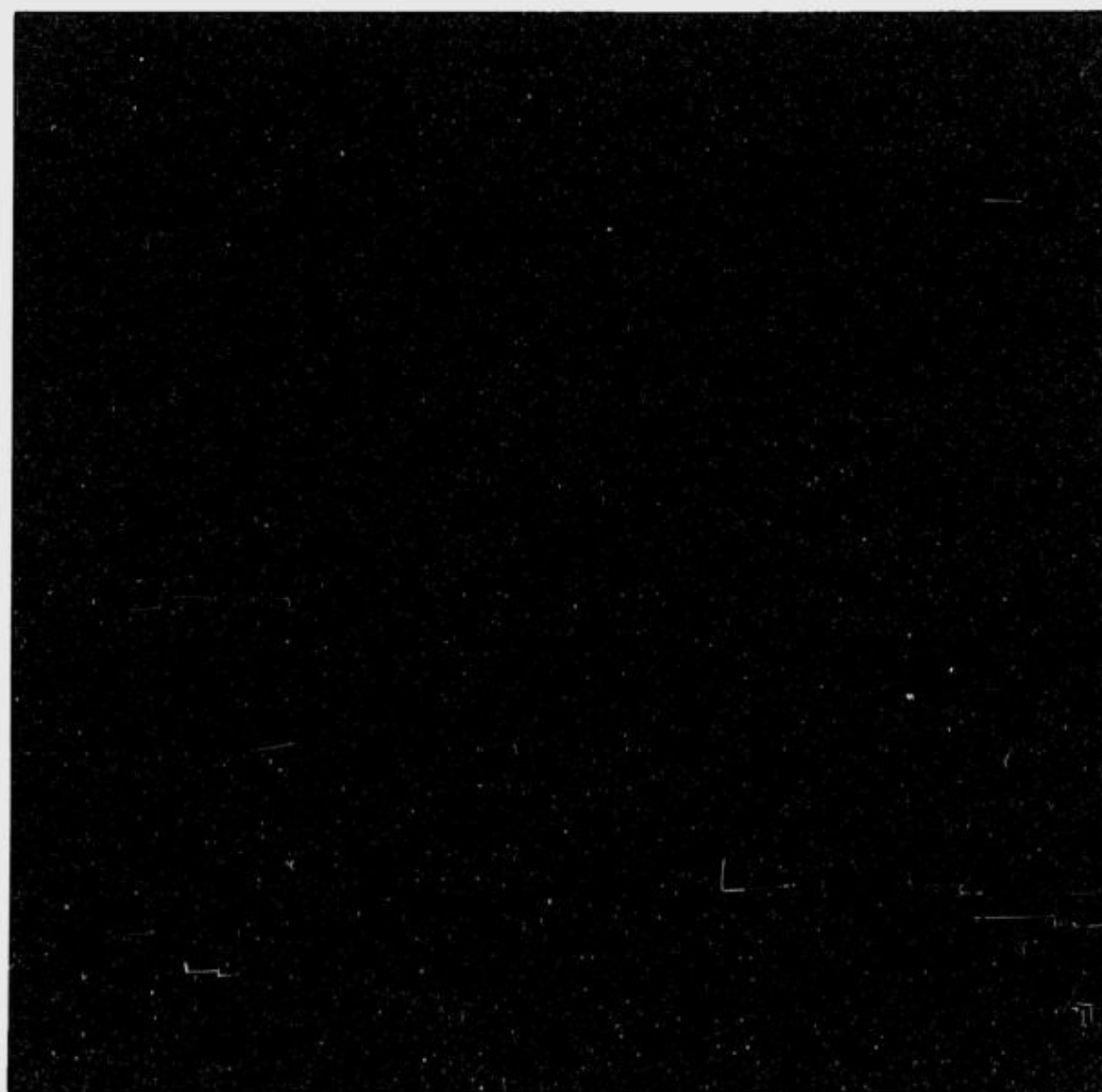
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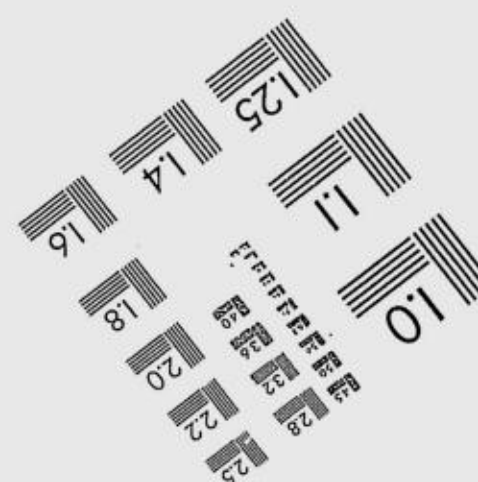
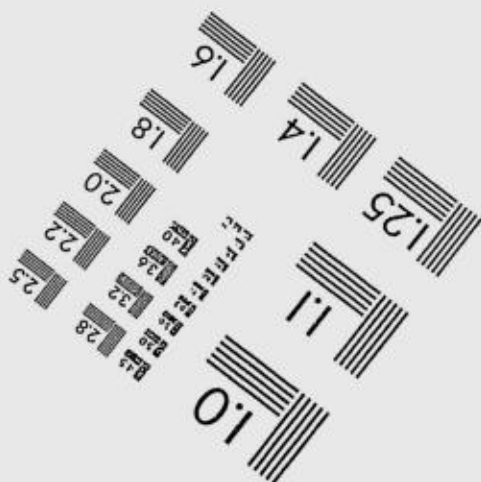
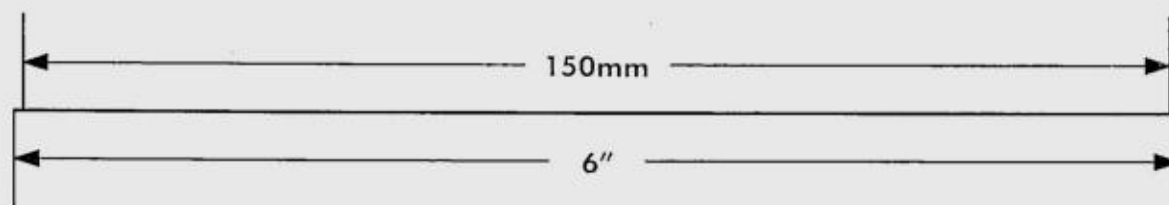
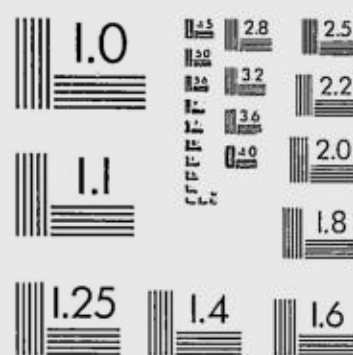
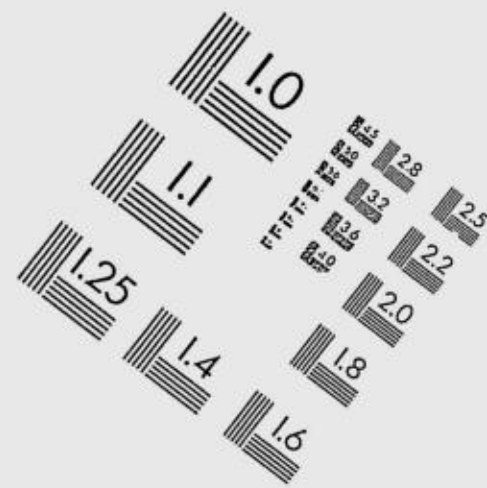
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